Wednesday, November 14, 2012 ★★ 14 sections / Vol. 27 / No. 339 P18 | Mobile Alerts: Text INQ ON BREAKING to 4467 | www.inquirer.net Twitter: @inquirerdotnet

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

MANUEL AMALEDO
Suspected mastermind disappears. CONTINUED P4/P5

BLOOD MONEY Interior Secretary Mar Roxas on Tuesday assures victims of a multibillion-peso pyramid scam in Pagadian City that the government will run after the perpetrators of the scheme.

Thousands gypped in ₱12-billion scam

Politicians, soldiers, cops, OFWs among those duped

By Nancy C. Carvajal

A COMPANY managed by a former janitor and driver, and founded just early this year, has duped at least 15,000 people in Mindanao and the Visayas of P12 billion in a pyramid scam, an official of the National Bureau of Investigation said yesterday.

The NBI identified the company as Aman Futures Group Phils. Inc.

"Some of the victims committed suicide and others have become violent and sick when they learned their hard-earned money was gone," said Virgilio Mendez, NBI deputy director for regional operations services, who was investigating the scam.

Among Aman Futures' victims were local politicians, police and military personnel, government workers, market vendors, farmers, drivers, retired employees and overseas Filipino workers, according to Mendez.

He said the number of "complainants from across the country is piling up."

Mendez said Justice Secretary Leila de Lima had ordered the THOUSANDS A10

Pagadian cops sacked for inaction / A21

PURISIMA: Favored by President Aquino to be next PNP chief.

Purisima is P-Noy's choice as PNP chief

By TJ Burgonio and Marlen Ramos

THE FOURTH most senior official of the Philippine National Police—Deputy Director General Alan Purisima—is President Aquino's choice to be the next PNP chief.

"I support Alan Purisima. This is the consensus. The President, I believe, is also supporting incoming PNP chief Alan Purisima," Interior Secretary Mar Roxas told reporters in Malacañang yesterday.

"Unless I hear otherwise, (after) my discussions with the President, it is Alan Purisima," Roxas added.

Purisima heads Task Force SAFE (Secured and Fair Elections), which will oversee law and order during the midterm elections in May 2013.

PURISIMA / A11

ITS OFFICIAL. President Aquino expresses sadness and dismay after the release of the final report on the Aug. 18 plane crash. Standing from left are CAAP Director-General William Hotchkiss III, Transportation Secretary Joseph Emilio Abaya and Interior Secretary Mar Roxas. JAY ISLES

Crash traced to pilot error

By TJ Burgonio

A MIXTURE of sadness and dismay was what President Aquino felt after investigators released their report mainly blaming the pilot for the Aug. 18 plane crash that killed Interior Secretary Jesse Robredo and two others, including the pilot himself.

A special investigation committee cited various errors by Capt. Jessup Bahinting, the most flagrant being his failure to turn back the plane to Cebu after an engine malfunctioned, showing a lack of experience to handle an emer- CRASH A10

Robredo widow hopes findings would lead to reforms / A10

Teacher kills self after losing all his money

By Julie Alipala and Richel Umel
Inquirer Mindanao

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Retired school supervisor Cristituta Potayre of Pagadian City had hoped to triple his retirement pay after 30 days when he invested in a scheme run by Pasay City-based Aman Futures Group Phils. Inc.

But Potayre's money "vanished into thin air" instead, according to Zamboanga del Sur Gov. Antonio Cerilles.

One day, Cerilles said, apparently unable to accept his loss, Potayre committed suicide.

Marivic Aguenda, 48, a Pagadian City resident, said her neighbor who was a soldier put in P500,000 that he had secured TEACHER A11

Firm still under probe for dumping waste—SBMA

By Robert Gonzaga
Inquirer Central Luzon

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—The finding that the ship waste dumped by a US Navy contractor into Subic Bay was not hazardous pertains to just one incident, the chief of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) said on Tuesday, indicating that the contractor is not yet off the hook.

In fact, the US Navy contractor Glenn Defense Marine Philippines Inc., is in for a "deeper investigation," SBMA Chair Roberto Garcia told the Inquirer in an interview.

FIRM A15

Sotto finds when it rains, it pours

By Cathy C. Yamsuan

THE ISSUE, sir, is intellectual dishonesty, and no longer the reproductive health (RH) bill.

Academicians reminded Senate Majority Leader Tito Sotto that the ethics complaint they filed against him was about his lack of candor about his sources and his "contingent denial" that he copied materials without attribution when he delivered three speeches against SOTTO A4

Ako Bicol, 3 others get SC relief

By Tetch Torres
Inquirer.net
Jocelyn R. Uy
and Gil C. Cabacungan

ABS-CBN, and three other party-list groups, which the Commission on Elections (Comelec) earlier disqualified from taking part in the elections next year because they do not represent marginalized sectors, have been given a reprieve by the Supreme Court.

The high tribunal on Tuesday stopped the implementation of a Comelec resolution disqualifying Ako Bicol, Association of Philippine Electric Cooperatives (Apec), 1st Consumers Al- AKO BICOL A4

15 party-list groups vent their ire on Bayan Muna / A21

WHAT'S INSIDE

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The little shop where artisanship lives / D1

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Rushes: Lying hunk busted, top rival lands big contract / G1

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONTPAGE

Time running out on FOI bill

By Leila B. Salaverria

HOPE is dimming for the passage of the freedom of information (FOI) bill in the House of Representatives, after the committee vote on its approval yesterday was delayed when the heated discussion got mired in technical procedures and what one lawmaker called "minute" issues.

Despite motions by some lawmakers to put the consolidated FOI bill to a vote, public information committee chair Rep. Erin Tañada adjourned the hearing, saying they had run out of time since the plenary session was about to start at 4 p.m. and there were still many issues to resolve at the next hearing.

As it turned out, there was no plenary session as there was no quorum on the floor. The House adjourned before 5:30 p.m.

The FOI committee hearing ended amid boos from the bill's advocates who were on the sidelines, hoping for the bill's approval in committee so it could be forwarded to the plenary for debate and approval on final reading before the end of the year.

The committee did not even get to discuss the merits of inserting a right of reply provision in the bill, which several lawmakers expected would be controversial.

Most of the two hours devoted to the FOI bill were monopolized by Marco Rojo Rep. Rodolfo Fortunato, who raised the supposed failure of the technical working group—headed by FOI proponent Rep. Lorenzo Tañada III—to hold a hearing to tackle Fortunato's motion of the bill that substitutes a right of reply provision.

The TWG reviewed the different versions of the FOI bill that were filed and came up with a consolidated measure which was submitted to the public information committee for deliberation and approval.

Tañada said he was "dismayed" by Fortunato's handling of the committee hearing and acknowledged that the chances of the FOI bill being passed were getting dimmer.

"It's going to be a crowd to the finish line and I don't think we can crowd in but as we warn," Tañada told reporters.

He said that if the bill was not approved in the next committee hearing, its chances lay in the incoming 16th Congress.

Deputy Minority party-list Rep. Teddy Casiño said the "inconsistencies" that marked yesterday's committee hearing "could only have been deliberate" and showed that the House did not really want to pass the FOI bill.

What the committee vote finally put on the table, Casiño questioned the procedure for voting up with the consolidated bill, saying that Tañada did not call a hearing of the TWG to discuss his bill.

Yet, Amorsolo said, Tañada included in the consolidated bill the proposed amendments from Malacañang.

But according to Tañada, Amorsolo's draft was not referred to the TWG by the public information committee because Fortunato did not schedule any committee hearings in 2011.

Tañada said Malacañang's proposed amendments were considered because Deputy Executive Secretary for Legal Affairs Michael Ray Aguinaldo said during which they were asked to come up with their suggestions on the bill.

Voices raised

During the discussions on this point, where voices were raised, Akbayan party-list Rep. Walden Bello said the issues had been sufficiently discussed and asked that the committee vote on whether or not to approve the bill.

He was seconded by several lawmakers, with Casiño saying the committee should move on from discussing "minute" points.

But Fortunato said that Rep. Pedro Romualdo, who could not be at the hearing, had asked that the bill not be voted on yet.

Isabela Rep. Giorgidi Aggabao also asked for a continuance of the hearing, supposedly because of a conflict in the province in opening the publication of officials' statements of assets, liabilities, and net worth on websites with the House rules on the inclusion of such a document.

Amid the discussion, Amorsolo moved to adjourn the hearing as it was close to 4 p.m., saying that for committee hearings it is done on past that time they must have the permission of house leaders.

Several lawmakers objected to the adjournment, with Cambodes Rep. Sillignan Magsaysay saying that lack of time could not be used as an excuse, especially after the committee agreed to hear Amorsolo's concerns.

But Fortunato still adjourned the hearing.

The FOI bill seeks to lift the secrecy surrounding government transactions and documents and allow for more transparency. The measure is also intended to battle corruption and promote good governance.

Tañada said that unless both the Senate and the House panel their respective versions before the recess, there was little hope it would become law before the end of the 15th Congress.

Meanwhile, several groups yesterday said the freedom of information bill suffered "factors, amounts and members at yesterday's hearing of the House committee on public information."

"The FOI bill is dead in the 15th Congress," said the groups that included the Institute for Freedom of Information, Right to Know, Right Now! Coalition, Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism, National Union of Journalists of the Philippines, Southeast Asia Monitor for Action, Focus on the Global South, Suez Agrarian Reform Alliance, Bring Them Home Alliance, Social Watch Philippines, Ibon Foundation, Public Services Labor Independent Confederation, Filipino Migrant Workers Group, Alliance of Progressive Labor and forum on Information Society. With a report from Christine F. Figueroa

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Solon presses House on dynasties

By Christian V. Figueroa

WILL A HOUSE of Representatives dominated by political dynasties ever craft an implementing law against them?

Deputy Speaker Lorenzo Tañada III yesterday urged his colleagues to begin discussions on political dynasties—come up with a definition, at least—amid snowballing criticism on political families running in next year's elections.

"For me, the House should not be afraid to craft a hearing to discuss this or to at least attempt to define what a political dynasty is because it can be defined in so many ways," he said in Filipino.

Asked how the defined political dynasties, he said he was still "studying" the matter. But he said it could simultaneously scrapping measured points "would seem not right." He also downplayed opposite sitting in the same Congress, as is apparently the case of Ao'Wassy Rep. Florencio Noel and Mobilon Rep. Josephine Lacson-Noel.

"If they belong to different districts, if they are fan, perhaps (it can be allowed)," he said. "That's why it has to be discussed. We have to study all permutations because it's really difficult (to define political dynasties)."

Digos Rep. Bonifacio Bosilio Jr. said political power should not be "concentrated among the political elite."

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H.E. President Aquino, Senate Bill 3299 is looking to impose a 1,000 percent tax increase* on some of the country's most popular cigarettes.

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Mr. President, 1,000 percent is too much.

Mr. President, we are one with you on the need for more revenues for the government. But a 1,000 percent increase is simply too much.

Mr. President, you are the people's last hope. We call on your Administration to stop the 1,000 percent tax increase and achieve a compromise that works for all of us.

A message from PhilTobacco Growers Association, Federation of Free Farmers, Philippine Aromatic Tobacco Development Association, Philippine Tobacco Institute, Ang Masa Bansa, Uptop Consumer, Trans-Manila Inc. and Universal Leaf Philippines Inc.

Universal Leaf Philippines Inc. PATDA

Message also endorsed by: San Juan Ilocos Sur Multi-Purpose Cooperative, Sinait Federated Farmers Association, Sinmata Multi-Purpose Cooperative, Banayoyo Reforestation & Tobacco Growers Credit Cooperative, Lidlidda Reforestation & Tobacco Farmers Credit Cooperative, Sta. Cruz Reforestation & Tobacco Growers Credit Cooperative, Northern La Union Tobacco Farmers Credit Cooperative, Mattina Tobacco & Bamboo Growers Association, Magbay, Bayolbot and Mabini Bamboo Growers Association, Salasan Tobacco Farmers and Bamboo Growers Association, La Curva, Cainturay and San Isidro Bamboo Growers Association, Camanggaan, Barbar, Nagsupotan Farmers Credit Cooperative, Barangay Sangagad Ecological Society, Cosro-oy Tobacco Farmers Credit Cooperative, San Emilio Multi-Purpose Cooperative Inc., Sinarmar Producers Cooperative, Bayabo Producers Cooperative, Bilatdan Producers Cooperative, and San Manuel Producers Cooperative.

*SB 3299's proposed cumulative increase 2012-2016. Actual increase 1077%.

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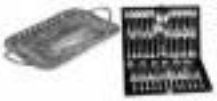

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Have faith: Aquino likens presidency to 'Impossible Dream'

By Michael Lim Ubac

PRESIDENT Aquino yesterday likened his presidency to one of his father's favorite songs, "The Impossible Dream," admitting that sometimes he didn't have what it takes to draw strength in order to stay the course.

Speaking before a crowd of evangelical missionaries, prayer warriors and Church leaders led by Bro. Eddie Villanueva, the President asked for prayers to carry out his reform agenda and propel the country in development in the so-called straight path.

The opening of the two-day "Mission Congress 2012" at Philippine International Convention Center yesterday was also attended by four politicians running for senator in the 2013 elections under the ruling Liberal Party.

Businessman Sen. Manuel Peter Cayetano, former Senators Ramon Magsaysay and Serafin Cuenco, and former Akbayan partylist Rep. Risa Hontiveros-Baraquel were personally handpicked by the President to run in the LP ticket.

In impromptu remarks, the President said he resented every "calumny" or problem he had to face as President, as it distracts his efforts to do his work.

"We are giving God a chance to help us and...reversal in that 100% can be more and you have shortcomings. But if you have faith, even though you can't do it alone, God will take care of you," said Mr. Aquino.

"Let's hope, faith that God will take care of the rest. If we are united on this belief, we will surely reach our destination," he said.

During the brief program, the President was greeted seven by Villanueva, the leader of the Jesus Is Lord Christian group and chair of the Asia for Christ Movement, and other evangelical bishops belonging to, among others, the Philippine for Jesus Movement and the Philippine Council of Evangelical Churches.

Villanueva told the audience that Mr. Aquino's presence proved that "his commitment to God is absolutely unquestionable."

He quoted several passages from the Bible that he said showed that Mr. Aquino's prayers, agenda and administration drive bowed closely to the righteousness spoken about by Jesus Christ and the Old Testament prophets.

"When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice," said Villanueva.

He said that as long as Aquino continues in his straight path, the country would continue to "enjoy the favor" of God.

"It is no accident" that the country is experiencing "phenomenal success and growth," Villanueva said.

Gold sellers paying less tax than they should–BIR

By Russel W. Domingo

GOLD sellers are actually paying less taxes than they should, according to a chief revenue concentrator Elmi Henares.

They should be paying 34 percent, or almost five times more than the 7 percent tax on gold sales that some businessmen were supposed, she said.

"Based on the (Tax Code), if your income is more than P500,000, the tax is 32 percent," Henares said.

Those selling gold to the central bank entered their income level, Henares said.

Politicians and some government officials believe that the gold tax which the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) imposed last year was the cause of the rampant smuggling of the precious metal out of the country.

Bureaucrats Secretary Rafael Pio has estimated the drop in gold sales to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) as 60 percent but would not say if it was due to the gold tax.

An average of 10 tons of gold is sold annually to the BSP, Henares said.

Gemstones Bureau director Leo Jasareno said earlier that

But last year, only 1 tons were sold to the central bank, and large scale mining firms accounted

It is assumed that the rest of the gold produced in the country were sold by small-scale miners in the underground market, he said.

Some lawmakers have asked the BIR to suspend the tax on gold, saying that this was encouraging the boom in the black market side of the metal.

"Without to the user, the issue is not taxation, it is law enforcement," Henares stressed.

She said that the BIR was currently collecting just a 5 percent creditable withholding tax on top of the 2 percent excise tax on gold sales.

"They are actually paying less than they should, so what is this complaining about?" Henares said.

The BIR has brought a complaint of tax evasion against a Cebu City-based gold trader for allegedly failing to file quarterly and annual income tax returns in 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009.

Going records from the central bank, the BIR said the accused, Lourdes Daniel Trading, sold gold to BSP worth P9.86 billion during the five-year period.

Not only did Trading fail to file the required tax returns, he also did not pay the income tax due on the five taxable years, the BIR said.

The BIR wants the trader to pay a total of P2.67 billion in back taxes for those five years, including surcharges and interest.

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Corrections

IN THE NOV 9 ISSUE, a story on Page A3—"Lull adopts 3 bata from 2 mayor slain"—incorrectly described Cynthia Villar as an incumbent member of the House of Representatives. Villar is a former representative of Las Piñas.

* * *

IN THE NOV 11 ISSUE, photo captions on Page C2 of the Lifestyle section misspelled the surname of a forensic pathologist and awardee of The Outstanding Women in the Nation's Service (TOWNS). She is Dr. Raquel Fortun—not Rodriguez.

* * *

IN THE SAME ISSUE, another photo caption on Page C2 misspelled the surname of another TOWNS awardee. She is Mona Valisno—not Valisnes.

* * *

IN THE SAME ISSUE, a Lifestyle story on Page C3—"The new breed of TOWNS awardees ridden out of the box and walks the extra mile"—misspelled the name of a city in Ilocos. The city is Vigan—not Viganb.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Reg Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, 757 Siklab Corner, Manila; e-mail: mbalonso@inquirer.com.ph.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday - November 14, 2012
32nd Week in Ordinary Time
Pontius Pacifico Cubillo

1st Reading: TB 2:1-7

Behold! He believes to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient and to be ready for every good work. Tell them to insult no one; they must not be quarrelsome but gentle and understanding with everyone.

We ourselves were once foolish, disobedient and misled. We were slaves of one desires, seeking pleasures of every kind. We lived in malice and envy, hateful and hating each other. But God our Savior revealed his kindness, goodness and love for humankind and saved us, not because of good deeds we may have done but for the sake of his own mercy, in the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit poured over us through Christ Jesus our Savior, so that having been justified of his grace we should become heirs in hope of eternal life.

Gospel: Luke 17:11-19

On the way to Jerusalem, Jesus was passing along the border between Samaria and Galilee. And as he entered a village, 10 lepers came to meet him. Keeping their distance, they called to him, "Jesus, Master, have pity on us!" When Jesus said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." Now, as they went, they were cleansed. One of them, as soon as he saw he was cleansed, turned back praising God in a loud voice, and throwing himself at his feet he bore him, he gave him thanks. He was a Samaritan.

Then he said to him, "Stand up and go; your faith has saved you."

Reflection

In today's Gospel, shared stories had brought Jesus and Samaritans together. There is nothing good about disease and disasters. Its there can be good consequences of even the worst evils (and this does not make them less evil). There is almost no limit to the resilience of the human spirit, and that's certainly on limit to the grace of God. When there are social disorder, thousands—even millions—die in wars. Or disasters. Or from famine and sickness. Many often cross borders into areas in their search.

Patristic Commentary: Theodoret, Bp. of Blessed Rep., 12 Hom. on Psalms, Hom. 1 (PG 80, 1861-1862) "Who, among those who read these words, does not admire the goodness of our Savior? Who does not wonder at his love for humankind? Who does not glorify him? Who does not call on him? Who does not love him? Who does not serve him? Who does not obey him? Who does not trust him? Who does not hope in him? Who does not love his neighbor as himself? Who does not love his enemies? Who does not pray for those who persecute him? Who does not love his enemies? Who does not pray for those who persecute him?

Grace Poe to Comelec: No repeat of '04 please

By Tetch Torres-Tupas and Doctora Tabuzing

REMEMBERING how the late Fernando, renowned actor and presidential candidate Nicanor Poe Jr., protested poll fraud in 2004, Grace Poe-Llamanzares yesterday appealed to the Commission on Elections (Comelec) to ensure clean and fair midterm polls next year.

Poe's daughter, who is running for a senate seat in next year's elections, appealed to Comelec Chairman Sixto Brillantes Jr. to eliminate fraud, which she said remained a threat to the integrity of the forthcoming poll.

"Let there not be another case like my father's," appealed Llamanzares, an independent senatorial candidate aligned by the Liberal Party, the United Nationalist Alliance and the Makabayan party.

Her father lost to then president Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, who is now detained on charges of electoral sabotage. She has denied the accusations. The elder Poe died in December 2004, a few months after his controversial defeat.

Llamanzares, former chair of the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB), warned that powerful, well-funded interest groups are not the structures erected by the Comelec to guard the sanctity of the ballot—even though the election body has automated the process.

Even if modern technology makes cheating difficult, the "human factor"—defined by the people that run the voting machines—could be subject to persuasions of money and intimidation, said Llamanzares.

"This is where our present system is vulnerable," she added.

She stressed that voters significance would be undone if, after the election, the candidate they voted for would not be proclaimed as the winner.

Llamanzares shared how her family suffered through how Mr. Poe's frustrating experience, continued as he was not declared the election due to cheating. "It is not fair on the people. And the forthcoming election would be a clean one," she stressed. "There shouldn't be a recurrence of what happened in 2004."

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Ako Bicol, 3 others get relief from high court

Front page 8-1

Bantay Kita Energy Inc., 11-CARE and Alliance of Water Consumers (ABC).

The court also ordered the Comelec en consonance on the petition filed by the four groups.

Ako Bicol, 1-Care, Apec and ABC said the Comelec violated their rights to due process when the poll body barred them from taking part in the coming elections.

Ako Bicol, the representative in the 2010 party-list elections, has three seats in the House of Representatives held by Rodel M. Batocabe, Christopher J. Co and Alfredo A. Garbin Jr.

1-Care has two seats and is represented by Salvador P. Belaluna III and Michael Angelo C. Rivera, while Apec has one seat held by Irineo G. Espejo. BIZ did not win a seat in the elections for the 15th Congress.

Batocabe said the tribunal's issuance of the status quo ante order was "the best possible scenario" that the party-list group got.

"We are humbled by the Supreme Court order which we received from media. We have yet to get a copy of the order. The order would mean to back to our status before the Oct. 10 decision of the Comelec disqualifying us. It is much better than a TRO (temporary restraining order)," Batocabe said in a phone interview.

He reckoned that the justices had taken into consideration the possible disenfranchisement of the 1.8 million voters of Ako Bicol because of the Comelec ruling when the court issued the order.

"With this order, we are still aware that our party-list will be included in the ballot for the 2013 elections," Batocabe said.

Garbin said one of the group's lawyers, Alberto Bida, had informed the group of the high court's order. "It is a great relief for the Bicolanos to know that ABE will still be part of the upcoming 2013 election by virtue of the said order," Garbin said.

Comelec to follow order

For Comelec said it would obey the Supreme Court order. "We will follow it, of course. There is no problem with that," Comelec Chair Sixto Brillantes Jr. said in an interview with reporters.

But in the same breath, Brillantes said the Comelec en banc would announce today that at least 10 more groups would not be allowed to participate in the party-list system elections next year.

Multimillionaires

So far, the Comelec has disbarred 69 organizations, some of which were terrorist-hopping to be accredited as party-list groups, as the poll body cleans up the party-list system of elements, especially those represented by multimillionaires and members of powerful political clans in the country.

"We will come out with resolutions on the motions of reconsideration (filed before the en banc)," Brillantes said.

He said the new batch of defected groups were mostly new applicants whose requests for accreditation had been denied at the Comelec division level.

Perks, pork

The perks of a party-list lawmaker, including P70 million in pork barrel every year, have spurred various groups to join the party-list system.

Currently, there are 43 party-list groups with a total of 56 seats in the House. At stake in the 2013 elections are 58 party-list seats.

The Constitution sets aside 20 percent of the seats in the House of Representatives for party-list groups, each of which can hold up to a maximum of three seats.

Ako Bicol, through its lawyer, retired Supreme Court Associate Justice Vicente Mendoza, told the high court in a petition that the Comelec erred beyond its power in determining the qualification of a party-list group.

Like Ako Bicol, Apec said in its petition that the poll body violated its right to due process.

Apec lawyer Sherry Ann Ibarra-Sucaldito said the Comelec, converted the process of determining the continuing compliance of every party-list group with Republic Act No. 7941, or the party-list law, to a disqualification case without even getting Apec's side.

Barzaga noted that there was no petition asking for his group's disqualification.

Grave abuse

1-CARE, for its part, said the Comelec committed grave abuse of discretion when it issued a resolution on Oct. 16 disqualifying it on the grounds that the group was not a marginalized and underrepresented sector.

The group representing electricity users said the Comelec was not allowed to create new definition of a marginalized sector and to reverse its already final and executory ruling.

"Republic Act No. 7941 does not authorize respondent Comelec to revisit, as in whim and caprice and reverse at this point in time its 2010 final and executory decision, which resolved the issue of petitioner's representation of 'the marginalized and the underrepresented' sector(s) and energy consumers," 1-Care said.

It pointed that under the law, "any party organization or coalition already registered with the commission need not register anew. Hence, for the 2013 party-list elections, the only requirement for petitioner 1-CARE, an already registered party-list organization, is to file a manifestation of its desire to participate in the party-list system."

"Nothing in RA 7941 would suggest (nor) be even implied that the Comelec may re-determine compliance by an already registered party-list organization," 1-CARE said in its petition.

ABC joined the three groups in assailing the Comelec resolution disqualifying them.

Earlier, Brillantes said that announcements on disqualified party-list groups were being made early to give them ample time to go to the Supreme Court to seek relief.

But the Comelec chief overlooked yesterday why a TRO was issued when such orders should only be given involving "urgent matters."

No urgency

Brillantes pointed out that there was no urgency in issuing a TRO on the Comelec's case against the delisted party-list groups since the election body had yet to begin the configuration of the voting machines and the printing of official ballots in January.

The chair of the electoral reforms committee of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines, meanwhile, said the process adopted by the Comelec in disqualifying party-list groups might be seen as a form of "witch hunt" because it was not done in accordance with existing laws.

"While the Comelec's pronouncements is to be admired and commended, it should not be seen to uphold the basic tenets of due process and equal protection, lest its conclusions be interpreted as a form of witch-hunt or inquisition," Vitaliano Espino Bandana Jr. said in an interview.

Edna Co, dean of the National College of Public Administration and Governance, said the poll body's recent purges deserve that enacted in the disqualification of more than 60 party-list groups could be described as inclusive and elusive.

Co said there was no clear mechanism to determine which sectors were covered by the party-list system. "Has the administration and the screening chaos of the Comelec's process of disqualifying party-list groups," Write a report from Aurora Saray

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Binay calls for prayers for doomed Pinoy

By Jeremy Aning and Tina G. Santos

VICE PRESIDENT Jejomar Binay yesterday asked for prayers for an overseas Filipino worker sentenced to death in Saudi Arabia for murder and robbery after the OFW's family failed to meet today's deadline to pay P55 million in blood money to the victim's heirs.

Binay, also the presidential adviser on OFW affairs, said Joselito Zapanta's mother and sister left for Riyadh on Friday carrying a letter he had written to the Saudi government appealing for an extension of the deadline.

"Let us pray for her compassion on Joselito Zapanta. I wish that, through our prayers, we can prolong his life," said Binay in a statement.

The family of Saleh Ibnatu Ibrahim, the Sudanese landlord Zapanta was convicted of murdering and robbing, had asked for the million Saudi riyals (around P55 million) to be paid on Nov. 14 or the execution of the beating would be carried out.

Zapanta's family, with government help, has so far raised only around 400,000 riyals, Binay said.

In a press briefing, Assistant Secretary Raul Hernandez, the Department of Foreign Affairs' spokesperson, said the government was exploring all avenues to extend the deadline.

"Today is the deadline...but we have asked help from Saudi King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al Saud as well as the Sudanese government to extend that deadline so we can come up with the blood money," Hernandez said.

A migrants rights' group, meanwhile, has renewed its appeal to the government to send a high-level team to Saudi Arabia to try and save the life of Zapanta.

"We have been repeatedly requesting to the Philippine government that a high-level team of diplomats be sent to Saudi Arabia to once and for all look into the individual cases and status of OFWs on death row. That way, they can come up with legal actions and strategies to convince their efforts at saving the lives of OFWs on death row," said John Leonard Monterona, Migrante Middle East regional coordinator.

Monterona said the family of the Sudanese man was unwilling to accept blood money. "He was confirmed to me by no less than Zapanta when we talked in a discovery phone call made to me in mid-2011," he said.

Binay had earlier written the Saudi King seeking a stay of execution for Zapanta.

"I just cut Presidents, Jacques Aquino III, in seeking your intercession in the deferment of the sentence imposed on a Filipino national, Joselito Lakuan Zapanta," Binay said in the letter.

"The deferment, which we seek on compassionate grounds, would allow the family of Mr. Zapanta to raise the blood money of SR5 million being asked by the heirs of his victim Salah Ibnatu Ibrahim," the Vice President added.

Zapanta, a father of two, left for Riyadh on Dec. 14, 2007, to work as a tile artist. He was not paid his salary for six months by his employer who looked for another job.

In June 2009, Zapanta's family received a call from one of his friends in Riyadh who told them the 32-year-old native of Abucay, Bataan, was in jail for killing his landlord.

According to the friend, the incident on May 26, 2009, brutally beat Zapanta after the latter refused to pay his apartment rent since it was not yet due, Monterona said.

Zapanta killed Ibrahim with a hammer. He took the victim's mobile phone and 3,000 riyals (about P32,000), giving the phone to fellow OFW Karen Mirando who has served her sentence for her part in the crime.

Zapanta admitted to the crime but said it was an accident.

Taas Noo. CES01

11th ANNUAL CES CONFERENCE

Going 4G! Good to Great Green Governance

39th Anniversary of the Career Executive Service

MESSAGE

MALACAÑANG PALACE
MANILA

MENSAHE

Kaisa ng Sambayanang Pilipino, binabati ko ang **Career Executive Service Board (CESB)** at **National Union of Career Executive Service Officers, Inc. (NUCESO)** sa pagdiriwang ng ika-39 na Anibersaryo ng kanilang pagkakatatag. **4G! Annual CES Conference.**

Yung magsisilbi sayo sa pamamagitan, mahusay noting hihisin ang ating adhikain tungo sa pamumuhan at tadong ang kilusan ng mamamayang Pilipino. Hihing natin ang pinakamain ng pagbabago sa pagpili ng mga pinuno ng mga kalasalan, mapagpalakumbaan, at mangingilig sa pagbibigay at sa kapwa.

Ito ang siste ng tagumpay sa mon, hihing mga CESO. Kaya ang hamunin ng ating mga empleyado, hihigi ng isang direktiva, at tagapagtaguyod ng reporma sa pinagpapatuloan nating sistema. Inaasahan ko ang patuloy mirong pag-aaplay sa pinakitak mata sa sarili sa akan.

Nakahahihi ng isang layunin, sama-sama nirong magsusikap para sa ikasusihi ng ating bayan sang mahigpagtulong ay ang nakakalo-lang pagpapatibago ng ating lipunan.

MANUEL B. AQUINO III

MAYNILA
11 Noviembre 2012

MESSAGE

Republic of the Philippines
Office of the Vice President

MESSAGE

My warmest greetings to the Career Executive Service Board as you hold the 2012 Annual CES Conference.

Good governance requires having a capable human resource. In my more than 20 years as public official, I have always taken active in government needs to be able to attract, develop and retain the best men and women in order to be truly capable of serving the people.

Public service is a public trust. This year's CES conference theme, " Going 4G! Good to Great, Green Governance," highlights the role of the CESB to maintain openings devoted to the government that upholds the tradition of competence, integrity and excellence in furtherance of nation building and economic development.

May this conference serve as a venue for you to hone your professionalism drive as you apply yourselves fully to your vocation and live up to your oath of office.

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

JEJOMAR C. BINAY

Isang malugod na pagbati sa ating mga kasamahan sa Career Executive Service (CES) sa ika-makapu't siyam nitong anibersaryo sa pagdiriwang ng 2012 Annual CES Conference!

Hand in hand in fulfilling the current Administration's Social Contract with the Filipino people and the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) for 2011-2016 is our commitment to the Career Executive Service (CES) to continually increase efficiency among our units in the delivery of the government's central goals. This commitment finds strength from the government's adoption of 4 pillars/avenues to attain based inherent systems, which is aimed at sustaining the good management of resources towards uplifting the lives of every Filipinos.

This year's conference theme, **"Going 4G! Good to Great, Green Governance,"** not only captures the recurring need in addressing our national development goals but this encourages members of the CES to sustain a high level of competence and integrity in government. The theme also reminds us that good governance will enchance the government drive towards long-term sustainable development and eventually providing efficient delivery of basic services to the public.

As we gear towards the 40th year of the CES next year, let us usher in the ideals that characterizes the CES: Competence, Excellence, Integrity and Service along the straight path of "Daang Matuwid."

Taas noo CESO! Isang kamaplan ang magkapit sa bisig.

ANTONIO D. KALAFAT, CESO I
Chairman
Career Executive Service Board

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Day 1 / 8 November 2012

LAUNCH OF NATIONAL CES MONTH
Invasion of Cairo
Regional Assemblies of CESOs Eligibles
Agency Accreditation
Annual Executive Board (EXCOM)
Meetings
Financial Analysis
Conference Secretariat
CES Month

Welcome Remarks — Dra. LILIA CORRECTO
Head, Zamboanga City

Opening Message — Hon. ANTONIO T. KALAFAT, CESO I
Chairman, CES Governing Board

Induction of 2012 CES Eligibles

Introduction to Theme — Private Professor, San Francisco, Manila

Introduction of the Keynote Speaker

Keynote Address — Hon. MANUEL ALVAREZ
Secretary, DILG

Declaration of Formal Opening of Conference — MARIA ANTOINETTE VILLACIS-ALLOWE, CESO I
Executive Director, CESB

CESOPS Group Photo — 2012 CES Eligibles
Agency Accreditation of CES Eligibles
Agency Evaluation
National Executive Board (NEB) Meeting

GUEST PLENARY LEARNING SESSION

Moderator: Dra. EDGARDO M. ESPERANCILLA, CESO III
Regional Director, DOLE
Dra. JESSICA CHITO MANIO, CESO III
Executive Director, PCHRD
Dra. ROSARIO C. BARAIRO jr., CESO III
Director, BMB-DENR

PANELISTS: Dra. MARGARITA V. GARMONA, CESO III
Director, CSC, RO IX

YOUTH ANALYSIS: FOUR MODULAR ANSWER

Day 2 / 9 November 2012
8:30 – 8:00 AM
GROUP EXERCISES WELLNESS ACTIVITIES

8:00 – 11:00 FOREIGN CULTURE IMPACT ON LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE IN SUSTAINABLE GROWTH
"From Here to Every Day: Cultivating Opportunity"

Dra. CYNTHIA R. ORTIZ, CESO III
Assistant Director, Southern Luzon Cluster, DOLE
Dra. ANA ANNA B. TEH, CESO III
Undersecretary, PCUP
Dra. JOSEFINA C. DOCTOR, CESO III
Regional Director, NCMB

FOREIGN MODERATOR: Dra. EDRACE R. LACUESTA, CESO III
Assistant Director, DENR Luzon Cluster

11:00 – 1:00 PM: LUNCH

1:00 – 4:00 PM: NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

5:00 – 6:00 PM: CLOSING CEREMONIES OF NATIONAL PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
– END OF DAY –

7:30 PM: FELLOWSHIP NIGHT — Venue, Lantaka Garden
Moderators: Dr. Nicolas Oliveros NUCESO Officers

Day 3 / 10 November 2012

6:00 – 8:00 AM: RIDE TO DANGAY ISLAND FOR WELLNESS ACTIVITIES

8:30 – 11:30 RIDE TO DANGAY ISLAND FOR WELLNESS ACTIVITIES

Panel A: Addressing the ill of Water Woes — Jupiter Aire Ruiz
Cooking Creek Water

MODERATOR: Dra. Shanilen G. Batugang, CESO I
Undersecretary, DAR

Panel B: Mass Health and Wellness in Mindy — Dr. Ronnie Lee Ebb
National Mining Author

MODERATOR: Dra. Anicia M. Lazaro, CESO III
Regional Director, DENR 09

11 – 11:45 AM: WINNERS' CLOSING SESSION
Living the Meaning of Global Service — Dra. Fe ALBERT S. ALBA, Jr.
Officer-in-Charge, Undersecretary

MODERATOR: Dra. Clarence D. Bagsican, CESO III
Regional Director, RO CAR

11:30 – 12:00: CLOSING CEREMONY

As we celebrate our 39th founding anniversary, we organized the activities of our Annual Conference around the theme, "Going 4G! Good to Great, Green Governance", to underscore both our continuing journey as CES professionals and our public policy and program advocacy late in support of promoting sustainable improving good governance in the context of our specific development.

We are excited to reflect on the leadership and development lessons over the last 39 years of the CES journey, and hopefully, from these, harness our collective courage to take on the challenges of the present complex, dynamic and ever changing context of governance.

It is a blessing that President Aquino's roadmap to good governance resonates with the ideals of the CES as a community. Said each blessing makes me confident that the journey to hone our commitment to serve the public with competence, excellence, integrity and unwavering dedication will truly render public service to the Philippines more fun.

MARIA ANTOINETTE VILLACIS-ALLOWE, CESO I
Executive Director
Career Executive Service Board

This event's theme, "Going 4G! Good to Great, Green Governance" puts this conference on the stage of new, of dramatic changes in our national life.

That the CESO finds itself against a light investments of good governance set by the national leadership the holding of the "11th Annual Career Executive Service Conference" for 200 Delegates more composed of the three such one in the Career Executive Service (CES) family holds true.

Society measures our professional activities against that special role we play as gatekeepers of public trust and transparency in good governance. And ours is a daunting task.

We each of us fulfill our mission as Career Executives with enthusiasm, wisdom, and hope to move forward towards the 4th CES Year in 2013. Let us be guided as the call of the President Benigno Simeon C. Aquino III that the foundation of good governance is the best defense against global uncertainty and that our mission can only be limited by how hard we are willing to work for it.

Taas noo CESO!

EDRACE C. DAVIS, CESO II
NUCESO President

Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE CITY MAYOR
City of Zamboanga

Bienvenido a Zamboanga / Kasi Lantaka!

Zamboanga City is extremely proud and honored to host the gathering of government managers and executives from all over the country dubbed 11th Annual Career Executive Service Board (CESB) Conference Asian Gem November 10-11.

Considered an important milestone event, this convergence will certainly bring enormous impact on our economy as it will provide employment and strengthened inputs operative services in the economy. Your theme "Going 4G! Good to Great, Green Governance" takes civil service on a different level.

Welcome to Asia's Latin City! May you find your way in Zamboanga, fruitful and enjoyable, and fully achieving about the good, the positive, the best and the beautiful about Zamboanga!

Ghinoo Zamboanga y Que Dios Nos Bendiga!

CELSO L. LOBREGAT
City Mayor

Bienvenido!

City Regional Executive Association of Western Mindanao (RECREMIN) warmly welcomes each and every officers, delegate and guest to the 11th Annual Career Executive Service Conference, with the theme, "Going 4G! Good to Great, Green Governance!"

It is the first time for Zamboanga City to play host to a congregation of government Career Executive Officers from all over the country and RECREMIN has found life as more interested to help assist in tourism, through welcome coordination with the officers of the Career Executive Service Board and the National Union of Career Executive Officers.

It is our collective desire to treat each one of you especially those who are visiting Zamboanga for the first time, to that possible Zamboangueño hospitality. Even the time you land on Zamboanga city until you do back home. Thus, we have seen to it that you will get to experience our warm welcome, our unique culture and dishes, our songs and dances, our exotic and tasty fruits and dishes, our heritage sites and other tourist attractions, not to forget, a side trip to the hottest mud eatery. These and many more, we hope will serve for you long, for home, as are go about get learning an refined business to do conference, but will make you wish for a return visit sometime in the future.

Bienvenido!

MAYUMI ALFAHSSAIR
President, RECREMIN
(Premier IV - Civil Service Commission
Regional Office No. IX, Zamboanga City)

Sandigan pressed to cancel passports of ex-PCSO execs

By Cynthia D. Balana

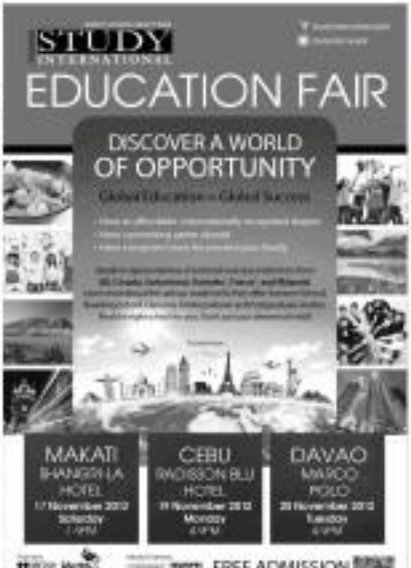
SINEL prosecutors yesterday urged the Sandiganbayan to reject former Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) general manager Rosario Uriarte's motion opposing the cancellation of her passport and those of five concerned rebel-hold the country after being charged with plunder.

Uriarte, along with former PCSO board directors Jose Taruc V and Ma. Fatima Valdez have not been indicted and face arrest in connection with their alleged participation in the alleged million-peso scheme of P900-million in PCSO to between January 2008 and June 2010. The prosecution has sought the cancellation of their passports.

Other executives in the case are former President and now Pampanga Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and six former officials of the PCSO and the Commission on Audit.

Assistant Ombudsman Dennis Siclunan and Assistant Special Prosecutor Ma. Rowena Tujan-Militante said the circumstances of Uriarte and Taruc that they did not evade prosecution was totally misplaced.

The prosecutors insisted that the arrest warrants issued against the accused by the anti-graft court would be rendered useless if the accused were to be allowed to remain outside the country and the jurisdiction of the court.



Mirage body says no to fighting manifestations

The Future B

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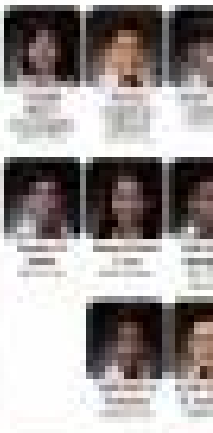

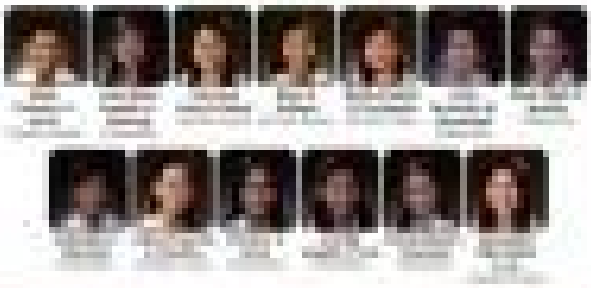

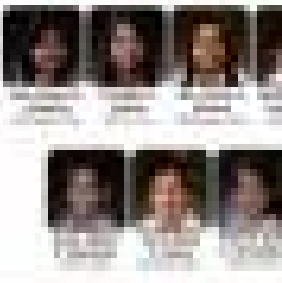

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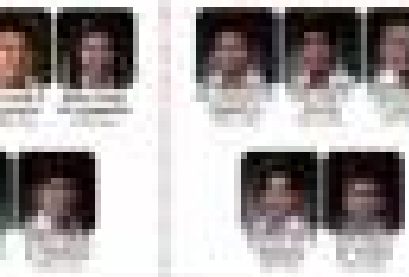

SCHOLARSHIP

UNIVERSITY OF THE EAST

Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

Across the NATION

ARMM health chief says cerebral malaria killed 15 in village

COTABATO CITY—At least 15 people died in what could be an outbreak of cerebral malaria in a remote village in Datu Blah Sinsuat, Maguindanao, that started last week, a government health executive said on Monday.

Dr. Kadil Sinolinding, health secretary of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), said health officials in the region considered the cases "very alarming" and that a team of health workers and epidemiologists had been sent to Barangay Nuling.

Sinolinding said Datu Blah Sinsuat is a malaria-endemic (where malaria naturally occurs) area. He said while 15 people have been initially reported dead, health officials could not yet determine the exact number of deaths.

Sinolinding said health officials are now sweeping nearby villages to prevent the disease from spreading to Lanao, has deep interest in the police force, who helped Yu evade arrest by giving him tips about which plane police would search for the suspect and where the search would be conducted.

According to Uson, "we have confirmed that he [Yu] was in Thailand and was supposed to fly back on the 16th [of November]."

"We already searched and he [Yu] had left did not arrive," said Duterte, quoting sources that he would not identify. "He has canceled his flight," the vice mayor said.

According to Duterte, the photograph of Yu that was captured on CCTV cameras in the airport in Thailand showed a distressed man.

"The picture of Bubbit is so larger the name," said Duterte.

"It is true the picture of a haggard man with large eye bags, which means he has not slept well. It's a picture of a worried person," said the vice mayor, who offered P1 million if Bubbit is captured alive, P4 million if he is captured dead and P5 million if Bubbit's severed head is presented "to us in a box."

To allegedly heads the Bubbit car theft syndicate that targets Toyota vehicles in Mindanao. On Dec. 17, authorities raided Yu's warehouse in a village here after the arrest of four of his accomplices in Iligan del Sur.

Authorities seized 114 vehicles from Yu's warehouse during the raid. Police said Yu's group was behind the theft of at least 11 vehicles in Mindanao since November last year.

Duterte said the bounty for Yu's capture has been raised to P6 million, after a car dealers' group shelled out P1 million more.

The vice mayor said while it would be difficult to track down Yu if he had gone abroad, "one thing is sure: he cannot come back." Gerwin-nia Lanorio, Inquirer Mindanao

Duterte: Cops protecting gang head

Davao vice mayor says tips from police helping suspect evade arrest

DAVAO CITY—The car theft suspect, who faces a bounty of up to P5 million for his capture, dead or alive, is now on the run and able to elude authorities because of police protection, according to the city official who offered the reward for the suspect's head.

Vice Mayor Bobbit Duterte, who dangled the bounty for the head of Ryan Yu, said in his weekly TV program here that Yu, alias Bubbit, had fled to Thailand and would have returned to the Philippines on Nov. 6.

Duterte said Yu had canceled his return flight to the Philippines.

The vice mayor said Yu, the suspected head of a car theft gang operating in Mindanao and with links to another car theft syndicate operating in Luzon, has deep interest in the police force, who helped Yu evade arrest by giving him tips about which plane police would search for the suspect and where the search would be conducted.

According to Duterte, "we have confirmed that he [Yu] was in Thailand and was supposed to fly back on the 16th [of November]."

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The vice mayor said while it would be difficult to track down Yu if he had gone abroad, "one thing is sure: he cannot come back." Gerwinnia Lanorio, Inquirer Mindanao

Erap son says gov't keeping hydro plants in disrepair

THE CLAMOR for the government to improve, instead of sell, two hydropower facilities in Mindanao is growing louder as another congressman, Rep. JV Ejercito-Estrada, appealed to government to drop plans to privatize the facilities.

In a privileged speech, Ejercito-Estrada, a candidate for senator, said the Agus-Pulangui hydropower facilities are left in a state of disrepair by the government because of the privatization plans.

Ejercito-Estrada said in his speech that the hydropower facilities are being intentionally neglected because the rivers which supply water to run the facilities' turbines are heavily silted.

"The obvious solution is to dredge the river system," Ejercito-Estrada said in his speech. "Unfortunately, the government moves at an exceedingly slow pace," he said.

Rep. Teddy Casiño, another candidate for senator, last week appealed to newly appointed Energy Secretary Jericho Petilla to prioritize the Mindanao power crisis and act on recommendations made at the Mindanao Power Summit held last April.

Among the recommendations at the summit were for the government to abandon plans to sell the Agus-Pulangui facilities, create a Mindanao Power Corp. to oversee existing and future power plants, run the power plants owned by the National Power Corp. (Napocor) and develop renewable energy sources.

In his speech on Nov. 5, Ejercito-Estrada said the reduced output of the hydropower facilities in the main reservoirs is causing brownouts in Mindanao. The Agus-Pulangui, he said, generates only a third of its capacity.

Ejercito-Estrada said the hydropower facilities are actually generating revenue for the government because these produce electricity at a cost of less than P1 per kilowatt-hour and sell it for P3 per kWh.

"That is why I don't understand why Napocor is keen on privatizing these hydroelectric plants," said Ejercito-Estrada.

"I don't see how you can generate income by selling off these power plants," he said.

In a statement, Casiño said the plans to privatize the energy sector in Mindanao are alarming. Inquirer Mindanao

HORSING AROUND

In Baguio, Benguet cowboys and their mounts are king. But the city's police officers still patrol in police cars, motorcycles and bicycles, despite urban dirt's pleasure may imply.

Reward now ₱2M for info on killing of radioman

CABANATUAN CITY—Authorities have increased to P2 million the reward for people who could provide information that would lead to the solution of the murder of a radio broadcaster here last week.

Senior Supt. Walter Caralipan, Nueva Ecija police director, said Gov. Aurelio Umali has promised to give P1 million to add to the P1-million reward put up by Mayor Julius Cesar Vergara for information that would help identify the suspects behind the murder of Fidel anchor Julius Cesar Cantos.

Cantos, 52, was driving a motorcycle on Nov. 9 when he was shot three times by a lone gunman in Barangay Aduas, Cantos died while being taken to Good Samaritan Hospital here.

Caralipan said investigators released a sketch of the gunman, based on descriptions provided by three witnesses. He said the suspect is between 40 and 45 years old, stands about 5-feet and 10 inches, and of medium built.

Supt. Eli Dequiz, Cabanatuan City police director, said investigators reviewed the city police's files of crime suspects but the gunman's features did not match any of them.

Cantos was the second broadcaster of dxAU who was murdered in the city in six years. On Dec. 7, 2006, Prosciano Grande, 53, also of dxAU, was shot and killed in his home here. His case remains unsolved. Amadeo Bojas and Armando Galang, Inquirer Central Luzon

Viet boat yields no contraband after rescue

By Rodongta D. Ando
Inquirer Southern Luzon

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—The boat of a group of Vietnamese fishermen, who were rescued by the Philippine Navy in Sunday, did not yield any contraband and the rescued foreigners are now awaiting return to their country.

On Sunday, a Philippine Navy patrol ship rescued the Vietnamese fishermen who came from Quay Nhon, Vietnam, and suffered engine trouble as it was near the Discovery Group Reef in the West Philippine Sea.

The Philippine naval ship, BRP Ismael Lorenzo (PG383), reported that the distressed Vietnamese vessel had been drifting "dead in the water" for four days when it was found some 10 nautical miles off Bagonol Island.

The vessel's distress signal was picked up by a local fishing boat, PB Cebisco, which relayed an alert signal to the Philippine Coast Guard.

Naval spokesperson Lt. Noel Caslipal said the vessel and its crew would remain at the BRP Cotoroyan Pier in Balabac while awaiting clearance from security personnel and the repair of its vessel.

The Philippine Coast Guard, which inspected the vessel, said there was no "concealment" found. The crew was brought to the municipal health center for medical checkup.

P-Noy: PH agriculture's past result of lessons unlearned

SCIENCE CITY OF MUÑOZ—President Aquino has likened Philippine agriculture's unremarkable performance in the past to a case of people not listening to their teachers.

In a speech read by Agriculture Secretary Proceso Alcala during the Gawad Saka awards at the Philippine Rice Research Institute here on Tuesday, the President said agriculture ministers of countries exporting rice to the Philippines learned from Filipino agriculture experts, whom ideas were neither applied nor fully supported in their country.

Mr. Aquino, who named the seven that to post watches, said the Department of Agriculture's (DA) budget will be increased to P94.1 billion in 2013 to improve the country's food output.

"So I traveled abroad. I had opportunities to listen and talk with the ministers of agriculture in other countries. They were high praises for the technical ties in our country for their excellent expertise in agriculture and for their excellence in teaching agricultures," Mr. Aquino said in the speech.

The President cited the International Rice Research Institute, University of the Philippines at Los Baños and Central Luzon State University as excellent teachers of agriculture.

"It is noteworthy that we are acknowledged as a teacher in the field of agriculture but we are not listening to our own lessons," he said.

As a result, he said, the countries that learned from the Philippines have started exporting rice here.

The President also said the mismanagement of rice imports led to huge volumes of excessive that ties to warehouses.

But Mr. Aquino said 2013 will be the year of it huge turnaround for the agriculture sector.

On behalf of the President, Alcala announced that 2013 is the "bumper year of rice," which would be anchored on full rice self-sufficiency that is complemented by an increased DA budget.

"Because of honest and right administration and management, it's not only rice self-sufficiency that we will attain in 2013 ... We will be exporting rice in 2013," Mr. Aquino said.

He said he is granting bigger budgets to agencies that deliver improved services.

"Those of you in agencies who are just sitting out there and doing nothing, you better start thinking. If you are not delivering good and appropriate services to the people, you have no place in government service," he said.

The government cited 21 individuals and groups during the Gawad Saka awards. Each received P150,000 and a trophy. Amadeo Bojas, Inquirer Central Luzon

Group pushes cultural tourism

By Tonette Orejas
Ilgan City

ON SUCH THEME as cultural tourism for community development, they kept their messages simple and meaningful.

"People like seeing people," was the first thought that Susan Millar shared with 354 people in Vigan City last week. They filled the conference hall of the Ilocos Sur capital, venue of the international conference organized by the International Council on Monuments and Sites (Icomos) Philippines and Icomos International Committee on Cultural Tourism (ICTC), which Millar heads.

Sydney-based architect and heritage consultant Graham Brooks provided a tool: "Artisans don't need to be saved. They need to be empowered."

Nuggets of wisdom or points to ponder on, distilled from years of advocating the preservation of world heritage as part of the advocacy of humanity, were shared during the two day conference.

Filipinos made full use of the breaks, engaging some 10 Icomos members, from here and abroad, in talks on geochrisis and ecosystem heritage preservation.

Icomos, said to be the only global non-government organization of its kind, also held its annual meeting in the Philippines for the first time in time for the 40th year of the World Heritage Convention.

Vigan City was chosen as venue because after being inscribed in the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's list of World Heritage sites in 1999, its cultural tourism has thrived and has been nurtured by the communities, said architect Augusto Villalon, president of Icomos Philippines.

What largely mattered, he said, was the infusion of new ideas on how to make cultural tourism work for the communities.

Sharing

Millar said the destinations approach requires a "fullet commitment to the protection of heritage values by the whole community—local residents and visitors."

"Well-designed and well-marketed museums have the ability to elevate a visit from a simple consumer relationship to another level of understanding and interaction with the host community," Brooks said.

In making the Grand Trunk Road, on where empires and civilizations in India were said to have flourished and flourished, conservation architect Goswami Bat said the local community is being made the "active custodians of the heritage and participants in its preservation, conservation and management."

Cultural heritage is also a medium in peacemaking and rebuilding post-conflict and post-disaster communities, said social scientist Suzanne Elizabeth Bert.

"The lasting benefits are not only the preservation of heritage sites and the economic and education benefits they provide from tourists, but the long-term psychological healing and relationships that develop," she wrote in a paper read by the conference.

The Ifugao Abvalue Foundation (IAF) popularizes cultural heritage for education and tourism through the Cafe in Kakilet or a night museum in Cebu City. Held every last Friday of May, it "creates communal ties with heritage advocates and heritage institutions to cultivate pride of place and at the same time stimulates economic activity tourism in the heritage sector," said IAF Executive Director Joselito Goria.

Cultural tourists

Communities with literature can be destinations for cultural tourists, said Icomos secretary executive Pamapili Hiss, citing the Hyogo cultural festival in Sangguniang in Hyogo's Pyeongchang county, which will host the Winter Olympics in 2018, and the television drama on the 16 volution story, "Land."

The cultural tourism of the Ifugao in the Asia Pacific region are "seeking more opportunities for personal growth and deeper cultural experiences during their trips than those who travel with their families or on a package tour," said Prof. Nilsey da Cruz.

The rice terraces in Cordillera were the first agricultural landscape inscribed in the World Heritage List in 1995. At least 22 more cultural landscapes have made it to the list and considering these ensure living agricultural and livestock rearing practices with communities, said Prof. Celia Maybest of the University of Granada in Spain.

Getting it in the World Heritage List brings enormous economic impact but it may also "generate pride and social link, and benefits on the intrinsic local communities, as we'll as to her huge itself," said Michele Peiri, Icomos France vice president.

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OPINION

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'Doctors to the Barrios'

WHAT HAS happened to the "Doctors to the Barrios" program? Not much has been heard of the government project that then Health Secretary Juan Flavier pioneered in 1993, which encouraged medical graduates to consider spending a couple of years or so of their professional practice in some of the country's poorest and most remote barrios and villages, where healthcare needs are at their direst.

EDITORIAL Flavier launched the DTTB after the Department of Health discovered that some 271 towns in the country had had no municipal physician for 10 years or more. The program, according to current Health Secretary Enrique Ona, aimed to address this gap by providing "equitable healthcare services to all areas of the country by deploying competent, committed, community-oriented and dedicated physicians to serve inaccessible areas."

Flavier's common-sense program was much lauded in its time. Not only did it galvanize, and seek to remedy, a critical weakness in the healthcare environment, one that affected the most economically deprived and vulnerable sectors of the population; it also made urgent Flavier's call, one that he had practiced himself for much of his career, for doctors—especially those from the University of the Philippines and other state colleges whose education is subsidized by the citizenry—to "give back" to the country by rendering service in places where they're needed most.

The government is said to subsidize about 80 percent of a student's education in UP, unfortunately according to a UMAK-T report last year, "data from the UP College of Medicine showed that more than 50 percent of their graduates eventually leave the country in pursuit of medicine overseas, and the number has been increasing in the past 30 years." This has led to a new university policy, called the Return Service Program, in which incoming freshmen to medical colleges in UP schools are required to sign a commitment saying that after they graduate, they will stay and serve the country for a specific number of years—three for those under the medicine program, two for graduates from allied disciplines such as dentistry, nursing, pharmacy, public health and health sciences.

Not all of them will find employment, of course, in city-based hospitals and medical institutions. So they may well reconsider the DTTB program, which, nearly 20 years after Flavier sounded the call, turns out to have grown very significantly. Last week, Ona announced that the Philippines would no longer have "doctorless" municipalities by the end of the year, with 32 "doctorless" and "very poor" municipalities in Abra, Ilocos Sur, Cagayan, Palawan, Davao Sur and Basilan finally about to have their own physicians by December through the DTTB program.

How did the DOH do it? By assiduous recruitment, apparently, resulting this year in 114 new recruits, on top of the 72 doctors already deployed to various hick- or sticks-class municipalities all over the country since last year that cannot afford to hire their own doctor. "Since 1993, 553 physicians have served in 390 municipalities all over the Philippines," said Ona. "Presently, our doctors are serving in 88 municipalities in 30 provinces and 16 regions across the country."

How's the address in the recent nonconvenience members of the new doctors didn't skip the caveats. "The road will not be easy," Ona said, the difficulty stemming right off from the sheer weight of the job. DTTB doctors could serve up to 50,000 people, or more than double the doctor-to-population ratio of 1:20,000 set by the World Health Organization, he said. Far young doctors, two years of such crushing work may be daunting.

"But the journey has its rewards," Ona added. "No doubt, your communities will adopt you as one of their own and pamper you in their little way, in their humble way. Experiences, both good and bad, will give color to your years of duty. You will find fulfillment, however, in every patient you treat, comfort, and hopefully heal."

The government is doing its bit to sweeten the deal not only with incentives such as clothing, subsistence, laundry and hazard allowances, but also with postgraduate study opportunities for the young doctors.

Of the new batch of 114 DTTB doctors, 92 are said to have already been dispatched to various areas. The commendation they serve—and the larger nation whose well-being benefits from their heroic work—will no doubt be grateful. DOH's next goal must be to deploy more than one of these physicians to a target community, to decrease the doctor-to-population ratio. In other words, may their tribe increase, indeed.

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We're sitting on a vast pool of oil in Palawan

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

THEY DON'T foreign investors come to the Philippines in droves in spite of the fact that we have skilled and relatively cheap labor? Because it is difficult to do business in the Philippines due to corruption, red tape, dogged insistence that delay the delivery of goods, and very expensive electricity—the most expensive in industrial Asia. This fact, in turn, is due to the imposition of the constitutional restriction on our powers concerning plants. The hydroelectric and geothermal plants that are cheap and clean are no longer sufficient for the needs of our growing population and expanding economy.

Not we are sitting on top of a pool of oil in Palawan. Why don't we pump it out and use that? Right now, only Shell is pumping out a limited amount of oil—which it sells to us at the same price as imported oil despite the fact that we own that oil—and natural gas which is used by two power plants to generate electricity.

Also, the administration has "officially" abandoned the extraction of oil from the Malampaya site. That was the latest position of the administration based on the statements of an undersecretary of the Department of Energy (DOE) who said it is postponing indefinitely the bidding for the service contract related to the development of the oil site in Palawan.

As former Leyte Gov. Jericho Petilla assumes the top DOE post, let us hope that the administration will take a more serious look as how much potential Palawan and other areas in the archipelago in oil fields, we are having with that decision.

It is ironic that the Philippines is moving heaven and earth, including risking a shooting war with China, in an apparent bid to help private contractors extract oil in the disputed Recto Bank in the West Philippine Sea. That is not to say that the government should not pursue its bid to tap the rich mineral resources in that area in spite of the conflict with China. What we are saying is that there is a proven pool of oil sitting idly inside unconditional Philippine territory and outside of any area where there are conflicting claims over ownership.

The US Energy Information Administration, which noted that China has had no objections to the Philippines developing the Malampaya field, estimates that in 2008, there were 156 billion barrels of oil there. In view is that the recoverable volume may have dwindled, but at least 37 to 40 billion barrels of oil can still be extracted from the field—that is, if our government moves quickly.

Crude oil is now known at around $100 per barrel. That means there is a buried treasure of black gold in Malampaya valued at $4 billion. That is of we can exit not anything without having to go to war with a giant neighbor.

But it looks like there are two other "giants" we may have to contend with before Filipinos can benefit from that $4 billion worth of oil in Malampaya.

The first "giant" is the oldest but done operation from international business interests operating the natural gas facility in Malampaya. Filipinos may have been left to believe for too long that the only energy resource available in Malampaya is natural gas. False.

The business interests operating the natural gas facility have been boasting that there are some 3.7 trillion cubic feet of proven natural gas reserves in Malampaya. But they have been silent on the presence of huge oil deposits underneath the gas. Pumping out the oil would entail additional capital expense for them that would dilute their huge profits from the current natural gas production. So they have refused to develop the oil resources, to the disadvantage of the Filipino people who would have a share in this oil.

The other "giant" is the apparent refusal of the administration, in particular any idea, no matter how bright, if such an idea was first conceived during the previous administration. A newspaper report has also mentioned that the previous administration planned to start drilling the oil in the Philippine National Oil Co. apparently caved in under pressure and extended its service contract to an unqualified group that was not able to deliver on the contract.

So as not to let that vast pool of oil go to waste, the government must bid out the service contract to develop the oil deposit to a qualified and legitimate oil production company. It cannot afford any more delay and should tell the current operator of the natural gas project to study and evaluate the economic feasibility of the oil deposit because it is this same operator that has adamantly refused to do its job by its contract and has deprived the government its just share to the value of the oil. The government is obliged to tap and develop that precious oil reserves for the Filipino people.

When Petilla's appointment as the new energy secretary was announced, many hoped he would stand up to any business interest because he is not indebted to them. The challenge is to see that oil from the Malampaya oil rise provides an excellent opportunity for Petilla to prove what he can do.

That oil deposit in the Malampaya oil rise will not be there forever. It is dwindling while we do nothing.

Scrap the VFA

There's the Rub

Conrado de Quiros

MIND BOGGLINGLY, we had to go on to consider Glenn Defense Marine Asia's defense that it was covered by the Visiting Forces Agreement instead of entering a outright Glenn Defense's crime was dumping 100,000 liters of waste and 760 liters of toxic waste in to Subic Bay. The verdict, of course, was that it was not. VFA covers only "US military personnel. Glenn Defense is a civilian company owned by Washington, but even if it were so, what of it? That makes it all right to turn the country into the (glowing) Payson of the country?

It's a throwback to the days when the dense's cans refused to acknowledge whether or not they were harboring nuclear weapons in their bases in Subic and Clark, their policy being to neither confirm nor deny. What it was widely known that their carriers did carry them—they were nuclear vessels, for crying out loud. In fact, when it was widely suspected, a thing confirmed by various studies after the bases were gone, that they were dumping waste in Philippine waters. Indeed, of leaving lethal toxic waste on land, in Batangas, after they fled the wrath of Mount Pinatubo.

The only thing new here is that the Malacañang have decided to add to the contents of the common toilet bowl. Why shouldn't they when that was the practice well before their time? Still, why shouldn't they when the country (what's positively willing to be a sitcom by another country and keep begging for more?

The problem is not just Glenn Defense, though that company ought to be dragged to court and made to pay through its nose for the harm it has done. The problem is the VFA itself.

It has no business being there. And it was a dark day when Imelda Marcos signed the so-called Magsaysay-Reid-Cruz-Romulo-Laurel-Tañada-Arroyo-Ermita-Gonzales-Puno-Corona-Aquino-Abad-Ochoa-Gazmin-Jimenez-Roxas-Abaya-Lim-Ong-Sy-Tan-Gokongwei-Ayala-Zobel-Ramos-Enrile-Estrada-Binay-Trillanes-Pnoy-Roco-Escudero-Villar-Angara-Drilon-Cayetano-Recto-Lacson-Sotto-Pangilinan-Honasan-Marcos-Revilla-Legarda-Poe-Cruz-Santiago-Madrigal-Gordon-Zubiri-Lapid-Ejercito-Estrada-Aquino

A strong middle class is the solution

COMMENTARY

Manuel F. Abisario

IT IS easy to see why a law outlawing political dynasties will be difficult, if not impossible, to pass. The law will be a reformation of the trade right of every citizen to vote for any candidate of his/her choice, which is the essence of democracy.

Commission on Elections Chair Sixto Brillantes Jr. says that the only way political dynasties can be banned is by amendment of the Constitution through a public initiative, as Congress will not enact such a law because of conflict with the self-interest of most of its members.

But even if such a constitutional amendment is necessary, will it not conflict with the right to free choice? Or the right of any qualified citizen to run for public office?

Webster's Dictionary defines "dynasty" as "1) sovereignty, lordship, dominion; 2) a race or succession of kings, of the same line or family; the continued lordship of a race of rulers." Princeton's World's Net has a more modern definition: "a sequence of powerful leaders in the same family."

A dynasty is historically inherited political power through a bloodline, as in the case of Hapag and nobles during the Spanish period. The French, English and Russian revolutions ended their heritage of power by inciting of the heads of their kings (Charles I of England in 1649, King Louis XVI of France in 1793, and Tsar Nicolas II of Russia in 1918).

Democracy abolished dynasties of inherited power and replaced it formally with the sovereignty of the ballot. The voter is King. His basic qualification is citizenship, not blood or property. But as our veteran Filipino politician has put it, in the Philippines, it is the "golden rule" that dictates the outcome of elections: "He who has the gold rules." The 1969 election, in which President Ferdinand Marcos won reelection, was derided by "guns, gold and goons"—the three he, Marcos, found the success of treasury in win reelection, bankrupting the government and the nation for the next three successively deposed him.

The politician who famously provided this truism was Senate Speaker Jr., the presidential candidate who was defeated by Marcos. Jr. says he was himself a member of a "political dynasty" in Cebu, founded by his father, former President Sergio Osmeña Sr. The Osmeña "dynasty," which has reached its twilight years, is now to be played by another, that of the Garcias.

The source of a "political dynasty" is wealth, whether inherited or acquired, legally or illegally. Without wealth, you cannot pay the goons to buy the guns to coerce the voters, also, you cannot buy the votes. And more especially, you cannot afford the Comelec, which is needed for wholesale fraud, like "dagdag-bawas" (literally, adding in and subtracting from electoral returns). The democracies of ancient Greece and Rome eventually collapsed when the government by money, courage in the battlefield, education and wisdom gave way to government by oligarchy (wealth).

In young republics, their citizens composed mostly of farmers and artisans with more or less equal income, Greece and Rome were the pioneers in their regions. But empire made the state wealthy, with public works and armies being raised by wealthy individuals who made huge profits through government contracts and trade monopolies. An oligarchy of a few rich families seized governmental power. Lord Acton's law took over: "Power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely." The tyrannies of corruption gained the foundations of the state, which inevitably collapsed.

The Philippines, without even becoming wealthy as a nation, has developed an oligarchy based on banking collusion. Its members, while splendidly in shining nonentities protected by high walls and private armies, and surrounded by hordes of emaciated peasants and workers living on a basic existence—a feudal society in an age of modern metropolises, space satellites and computers. The peasants and workers are free guns and their votes are in the market—except for those who can afford to buy public power. Power begets wealth and wealth begets power. It is a vicious cycle that is the root of the political dynasty, Philippine style.

The solution? Provide a livelihood with decent wages to all family heads of the class of workers and tillers. Thus, you build a strong middle class—a majority class of voters who cannot be bought. The American Empire, like the Roman Empire and the Greek democracies, has declined because of the weakening of the middle class. US President Barack Obama said he would rebuild it. In the Philippines, our job is to build it.

Manuel F. Abisario is the spokesperson of the Movement for Truth in Money. E-mail: mfabisario@yahoo.com.

Blind faith

"DIE, JUST give him baby, it really works he tongue." said the midwife.

It was early morning and I was in a rush because I had just received a text from one of my student relatives, who was confined at the university clinic for what seemed like dengue. I was calling my mother's caregiver about the student when the midwife, who was trying out on a possible substitute, gave her unsolicited advice on baby.

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

She got her bag, fished out a bonchan, plugging a bound of "organ pure baby," and gave it to me. My name and phone number were written on the bonchan, which I will describe shortly. What caught my eye right away was a claim that baby was helpful for "preventing" malnourishing aging malignancy. Is" I a long list of ailments. No dengue in the list, but maybe it was supposed to be covered by "at the pre" bite-1, which appeared at the end of the 62 medical problems.

This incident was a rude reminder of the growing challenges with healthcare in the Philippines. Until about 30 years ago, the public health system was the only game in town. Under Western Health care system gained ground in both health care system (e.g., the Asian, affluents and faith healer) that was affordable if not free, but marked by inefficient or even dangerous remedies. I will emphasize here that the Western healthcare system was and is not free of quackery, and that the faith healer system also has its share of success with very caring healers and some effective healing techniques.

Today the situation has become more complicated with the rise of all kinds of other healthcare systems as well as products, routinely, much of this came about because of the rise in the West of complementary and alternative medicine, part of a "return to nature" movement, and growing out people's questioning from of synthetic chemicals including Western medicines.

Over the years we've seen an explosion in the food market of these "natural" products, together with all kinds of alternative health systems such as iridology, pranic healing, homeopathy, therapeutic, traditional Chinese medicine (acupuncture in particular), Ayurvedic medicine, chopra's concepts of health and care in east and south of Western medicine, traditional Filipino folk systems and these improved ones, plus a few homegrown hybrids.

What have grown in leaps and bounds are the supplements, many of which are unregistered or, if they do go through the food and Drug Administration, are approved only as food, not as medications, and are not supposed to make any therapeutic claims.

Because many of these products claim to work through faith, it breaks over a long period of time, like food, clients end up paying thousands of pesos a month. As one of my physician-friends has pointed out, the "natural" products are more than buying prescribed medicines that cost P20 a day, but don't mind paying P3,000 a month for some "herbal" remedy which comes out to P100 a day."

Mind

There's a new field of neuroeconomics (sometimes overlapping with behavioral economics), which looks at how people make economic decisions, not only from the point of view as well as non-scientific calculations). An important overarching finding is that our brain does wire us to sometimes make mistakes, and one sense of realities can become distorted because of processing biases and variations on what "count" and "benefits" mean. We are, in a sense, wired to be fooled.

Marketing of supplements makes sales on that distortion wiring. The brochure on barley provided by the midwife supposes people with pseudoscientific language such as a list of ourselves (for example, boost, restore and strike), plus more well-known vitamins and minerals).

Then, there were so-called testimonials, which were really brief case studies. One claimed that barley itself cured the cases of incessant pneumonia, meningoencephalitis, diabetes and "deep vessel disease," kidney stones, April Boy Regino's photograph was there with a caption "Diagnosis: Prostate cancer" and a claim that he was cured by the barley. But the actual quote from April Boy is: "I started feeling better after taking it only for a week." Not cured, but feeling better. Questions about apparent by the caption has him just undergoing people.

We're wired to believe people. It doesn't have to be spirit fairy; it can be a neighbor or an influencer who claims to have felt better after taking a supposed natural remedy his we must remember that feeling better is different from having an illness treated by a healthcare provider or both the public and private sectors. It's that kind of endorsement that I really worry about. In a new twist, I'm getting reports now from my students in medical anthropology of physicians and nurses pushing some of these ineffective and often very expensive remedies, sometimes in the name of conscience and care. For example, were self-described as supportive, as if that's not bad enough, I also have stories of health professionals who actually push patients with critical illnesses to rely only on religious healing. The saddest case was one where a nurse actually told the patients, who had breast cancer, not to go for the chemo and to just rely on a faith healer.

Inside oil

Perhaps our growing gullibility stems here inasmuch we are today inside-oil societies fed off our many fears of getting sick, of an illness (or what some like illness—for example, aging), of doctors, of medicine, or of hospitalization (which usually with the fear of losing income, if not a job). So we end up with many "inside-oil" healthcare products, as well as complications from the convoluted illness.

How much do we consume a convincing alternative that can cure ours, or believe in. Those to say that barley brochure had all the bases covered when it came to marketing. Besides the testimonial endorsements and pseudoscientific language, it begins by saying that barley from New Zealand (clean and healthy air?). Even more importantly, the brochure says barley is connected to the BIBLE (quotes in the original) 57 times for food and medical purposes.

How can you live with fears, tension, shame, G, New Zealand, and God, plus the midwife?

The solution is to be more critical for these products have been relentless on TV and radio and in print, including our own buyers. Almost daily I get unsolicited texts promoting some "herbal" product. Even Mercury Drug stores push many of these products on their video players, which is dangerous because Mercury is seen as being backed by scientific medicine. I'm personally tempted to buy one of those video management—both by showing commercials' machine gunning all kinds of illnesses. Meanwhile, there's a clay "No Thermopenic Claims Approved" at the bottom of the screen, which, thanks to our brain setting, no one seems to notice.

We have to learn to be more critical of these promotions. Here's what you get blinds for alternative, over-the-

Dancing to fight cervical cancer

DAP, 29 the short-listed nominees to the Supreme Court to fill the vacancy left by Maria Lourdes Sereno when she ascended to the post of Chief Justice to Aurora Noel Tijam of the Court of Appeals.

This paper initially "endorsed" Tijam when it noted in an editorial that Tijam had a "clean" reputation. But a couple—Ed. Sherman and retired Judge Alfredo Tadlan—are raising a loud cry to the possible appointment of Tijam. They cite the decision made by Tijam in a case filed by then Speaker Jose de Venecia against the airline Lufthansa in 1999, when her luggage failed to arrive with her from London.

Acting as Thirty lawyer, Alfredo Tadlan first won a motion from Tijam when he asked that the airline be declared in default for its failure to file a pretrial brief and for nonappearance, together with its counsel, he pretrial." But Tijam changed his tune when he later granted Lufthansa's motion to dismiss, with the added flourish of "saying pretrially or in capricious ill-humors." says Tadlan, this decision "violated the intention "to reach a lenient to petitioner's command" by being overzealous and give him a case of his own medicine."

Fortunately for the Tadlans, Tijam's decision was reversed by the Court of Appeals, and seven years after the decision Bid filed, the Supreme Court granted Thea relief.

Of course, when a lawyer or judge comes up for appointment to the Supreme Court, all parties who lost cases or opposed him or her are free to come out and pass objections. But in a letter to the editor, Tadlan's "sour grapes" tone that judging from his experience with Tijam, he has reached the conclusion that Judge Tijam decides a case on the basis of gut-to emotion and does not consider a relief/judgment on a cognitive basis."

Tadlay adds that as a justice of the Court of Appeals, Tijam submitted a decision in 2009 accepting Jose Villarosa's alleg with several others, for the killing of the sons of his political rival, Ricardo Quintos. This case is far from over, undergoing review by the Supreme Court, and embroiling one acting justice and a retired justice in ethical con-

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

physicians after they stood as godfathers at the wedding of Villarosa's daughter.

* * *

IMAGINE more than a thousand (1,116 to be exact) obstetricians-gynecologists from all over the country dancing to hip-hop beats in an effort to raise funds for and awareness of cervical cancer treatment. Imagine, too, actress Sandra Cantebeng and reigning queen Richard Gap, better known by his crossdress names "Pia Pia Chua" and "Mr. Chad," posing (both by tugging and, yes, dancing, to the delight of the gyrating ob-gyns.

That final photo shot in "Beat It," held last Nov. 8 at the PICC Reception Hall, an effort to raise awareness of this deadly disease by "having the men and women who take care of Filipino women take the first step toward cervical cancer prevention." As planned, for every ob-gyn who would take part in the dance contest, one woman "who otherwise cannot afford the cervical cancer vaccine will receive a dose for free." The doctors-organizers said they also aimed to merit inclusion in the business book of World Records for the largest gathering of doctors dancing for cervical cancer awareness.

"It all started as a dare," writes Dr. Julieta "Jurjur" Cerma, president of the Philippine arm of the Asia Oceania Research Organization on Genital Infections and Neoplasia (AOGIN), along with Society of Gynecologic Oncologists of the Philippines (SGOP) members Dr. Maria Mercedes Padilla and Dr. Lydia Tapan, then thought of "doing something" for cervical cancer awareness that would grab the attention of ob-gyns and "more importantly, help women."

Those men have the idea of the chance for cervical cancer awareness during the annual national convention of the Philippine Obstetrical and Gynecological Society (POGS). It was presented to and enthusiastically endorsed by POGS president Dr. Rey delos Reyes, and vice president Fe Ruiz Quilloman, and organized by Jet Gil-Gonzales of SOGIIOC (Obstetrics Fellow of the Philippine Society of Colposcopy and Cervical Pathology (PSCPC) and former of SOGIIOC.

* * *

AT THE same time, the doctors "challenged" Gardasil/Cervarix (US$) to donate an HPV vaccine for every ob-gyn who danced for cervical cancer awareness." (Still, vice president Nenpin Evangelista agreed.

Belina Cerma: "As obstetrician-gynecologists, gynecologic oncologists and cervical cancer advocates, we see every day how cervical cancer burdens and claims the lives of Filipino women. It's about time we started with our own solutions in our efforts for cervical cancer prevention."

What makes the event double memorable—and double-entendre, for that matter—is that originally said goal was to raise only 500 ob-gyns who danced, it was (already) a big way," says Cerma.

* * *

Now, more than 1,000 young women (and girls) will get lifetime protection from the cancer causing HPV, all thanks to dancing doctors and their commitment to stop cervical cancer in its tracks.

'Missing history'

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

SOMETIMES, HISTORIANS do their research outside a library, archive or museum. Dead history is what they call the results of interviews with living persons. And this can be the most rewarding experience, there communicating with the long dead from books, manuscripts and archives. The late Doreen G. Fernandez and Felipe de Mesa came up with two volumes of conversations with the national generation of Filipinos in history in English—"Tikim: Sweet Memories" (1994) and "Pinoys and their Dishes" (1998)—that provide the context to many of the short stories and poems anthologized in our textbooks. Seeing a person and personality behind a given poem or short story enhances appreciation.

When Doreen heard that I was visiting Bohol in Agoncillo, she advised me to bring a tape recorder and ask his permission to record our conversations. That led to my book "Talking History," which provides a glimpse into the history behind the making of the first volume of national Philippine history textbook. When I look back to my first job in the newspaper Philippines Daily Express, I realize how much our history was discarded in the newsroom on a daily basis. Reporters sought out a story, hurriedly transcribed their interviews, chose the best quotes and wrote the 7 p.m. deadline. These manuscripts were discarded, and concrete tapes reused. Bits and pieces of history now gone.

One of the joys of interviews is meeting interesting people. Once, while researching for an essay on the composer Nicanor Abelardo, I sought out two of his colleagues in the premier University of the Philippines Conservatory of Music—the pianist Celedonio Ongpin and the physician and diplomat Antonio B. Rosal (1917-1986). The latter was a bit of a challenge because I was told he was overdone. Incredible, I was told, as Makiling is made of stone. Rosal was on the same street as the historian Carlos Quirino and the painter Arturo Luz. Both would later be proclaimed National Artists. Rosal and I got

Abelardo out of the way before I finished the coffee he served, then Rosal continued providing me a few more than I came for.

I knew Rosal only as a server and was surprised to discover later that his name is recorded in other fields. In botany, a lilioid, and orchid he discovered in Mindoro, he shares a genus with Pan in the Cordillera mountains is named after him (*Rosalia Merrillii*, see flowers); in medical literature, a type of hyperbilirubinemia is known as the "Rosal syndrome." Lesser people promote themselves through "praise whores," but this man kept himself private. What I'd like to write to me is his private papers, which contain, among other things, the minutes of the meetings of the Philippine Commonwealth government-in-exile headed by President Manuel L. Quezon in Washington, DC. Rosal served as secretary and got an education and with a world and life that others aspire for. As he told Fernandez and Ongpin:

"My short stint with the Commonwealth government-in-exile ruined me of whatever political ambitions I may have had. In all my life I have never seen such intrigues, such fear for power or influence. Everybody is listening for his own dear self, trafficking in rumors or innuendoes, ever on the watch for any opportunity to curry favor with the President, even if he had to stab a friend in the back. These men were supposed to be leaders of the nation, paradigms of probity and self-sacrifice that the youth were supposed to emulate. But in Washington I saw these Olympians of Sorority-Sorpod

Comments are welcome at ocampo@info.com.ph.

LETTERS

'Transition plan' to junk, not finish, agrarian reform

CONTRARY TO the pledge of President Aquino to complete the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) during his third (last) term of the Noinoy Aquino, the current version of his administration (Aquino-Roxas) has a creeping or even reversionist.

First, the "transition plan of the Department of Agrarian Reform" will transfer the support services in the Department of Agriculture and other GARP-implementing agencies, scale down its staffing and reconsider its organizational structure. This looks more like an abandonment of the program, not effective implementation and completion. The transition plan is contained in four modest pages under the special provisions of the 2013 GARP. Executive vice Secretary Roxas (Caspar) National Expenditure Plan Budget submitted by Agrarian Reform Secretary Virgilio "Ed" delos Reyes to the House of Representatives.

He does not have the appropriate organizational structure to cope with agrarian reform beneficiaries, especially as the bar stages for it, and Agriculture Secretary Proceso Alcala himself has admitted that his department is not ready for such transfer. On the other hand, Delos Reyes shifts the blame to the Department of Budget and Management, in particular Budget Secretary Florencio Abad, who allegedly is the "brains" behind this transition plan.

Further, from the 2013 Casper budget submitted by DAR, it is apparent that DAR is being prepared for pleasure and will be "legally" abolished by June 30, 2014. In fact, we know that Secretary Abad has proposed a zero budget for DAR in 2014.

We share the concern of more than 80 beneficiaries, including Pampanga Rep. Anna York Bondoc who is in charge of DAR's budget, that the President has "virtually crippled DAR" because of the transition plan, despite GARP's constitutional mandate ending. "Agrarian reform are priority in 2013 budget, says lawmakers," Inquirer, 9/28/12).

Second, Delos Reyes already admitted that the department will not be able to finish land distribution, leaving around 1.5 million hectares, including around 400,000 hectares of undistributed land by June 2014, the deadline for the completion of land distribution under Casper. This size of land completion more than one-fourth of DAR's land distribution targets. The non-implementation of Casper will affect 1.1 million farmers. We expect that these figures will increase as Delos Reyes is still stuck in his own targets for land distribution, as shown the constant revision of land distribution targets for 200.2 from 268,000 to 240,000 to 220,000 to 165,000.

Third, the accumulation plan has resulted in demonstrations among DAR's rank and file. This has contributed not only to the precipitous exit of the bureaucracy but also in the postponement of GARP. In this renewal mode, the DR Aquino should instead recommend the bureaucracy.

We urge the Aquino administration to abandon the transition plan.

—EDDIE TAMEO, spokesperson, Save Agrarian Reform Alliance; Quezon City
SARITA PASCUAL, president, Department of Agrarian Reform Employees Association, Quezon City

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What's Tiglao's grudge vs Akbayan party-list

NATIONAL Inquirer letter, an organization composed of overseas Filipino workers in Greece, would like to say hats to one and all what Rigoberto Tiglao holds against Akbayan, which explains his excessive attacks against the party-list group, including his latest "Philippine one- is not for Dolefil's integrity," Inquirer, 11/6/12).

On Oct. 31, 2012, Kasapi and other migrant Filipinos handed supplies as campaign for "Tiglao's return as the Philippines' ambassador to Greece for failing to serve the Filipino community and protect OFWs' rights and welfare in that country. With the help of Akbayan, we succeeded.

It's ironic that Tiglao finds fault with activism on political party slate fully disclosed to campaign contributions but sees nothing wrong with land area his assisted out a social lifestyle funded by taxpayers' money during his stint as ambassador.

Of the five ambassadors the Philippine government has sent to Greece, Tiglao, a Manila Bulletin columnist, lived the most luxurious lifestyle. His house was in a posh village located in the suburbs of Athens. The monthly rent was somewhere between P300,000 and P400,000. He also had his own driving allowance were such as the island of Corfu. He also enjoyed living in a chauffeured Mercedes-Benz all over Greece, grossly disinterested of the Filipino divers who was always overworked and deprived of time for his family service weekends.

While Tiglao indoctrinated with Greek elites, he avoided the OFWs and our problems. Under his leadership, consular services were outputter but poor in quality. When the recession struck the country, OFWs, who found themselves out but with low jobs or reduced salaries, asked Tiglao to reduce costs of consular services to ease their financial burden. Tiglao merely turned a deaf ear to our pleas.

Also, he did nothing when we appealed to him to join us in our fight against drug syndicates that brought in illegal drugs from the Philippines and victimized Filipino youth in Greece.

He was missing in action when Kasapi, Akbayan and friends and supporters in Greece rallied to save 12 Filipino seafarers that were held in a floating prison, although he was the first to lead the seafarers' release in the media.

Instead of addressing our concerns with effective action, Tiglao chose to foment vile among OFWs by running down with a scandalous.

I reiterate, Ambassador Tiglao provided terrible service to OFWs. On this alone, he has no moral standing to challenge the integrity of the Commission on Elections or even that of Akbayan.

We are not surprised that Tiglao relies on Dolefil's integrity to discredit the party-list. It was an a platform to get back at Akbayan. However, it's utterly shameful for him to use this issue for his personal vendetta against a political party that succeeded where he had failed...in serving the interests of Filipino people.

—JOE VALENCIA, president, MERCEDITAS CASILLAS, vice president, REYNALDO SOL ALABA, vice president, SUSANA TAMAYON, secretary general, Kasalukuyan ng Migrasyong Pilipino Sa Gresya (Kasapi) Sa Hellas, Athens Lakas ng Loob Grupo, Del Agnesdelsa 488, Athens, Greece

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Purisima is P-Noy's choice as PNP chief

From page A1

While talking about Purisima's designation as chair of the task force, Roxas inadvertently referred to him as the "incoming PNP chief."

Pressed by reporters, he corrected that Purisima was the President's choice to lead the 140,000-strong police organization.

"What's important here is the preparation for the elections," Roxas said. "We've designated the chairman for democratic exercises (Alan Purisima) to head the Election Task Force. Sir, Alan Purisima, who is the incoming PNP chief, will walk the plans which he will be implementing once he becomes PNP chief."

Roxas underscored the importance of a turnover in the PNP ahead of the elections. "It's a big organization. Insofar as turnovers are important as things don't fall between the cracks," he said.

Roxas said he ordered Barrientos had accepted the President's suggestion to go on terminal leave ahead of retirement.

Roxas was previously reported to have been dismayed by Purisima's performance when he was still the chief of the National Capital Region Police Office.

Purisima 'elated'

Purisima told the business he was "elated" by the news that Roxas would endorse him as the new PNP director-general. But he said he would still focus on his current job as chief of the PNP directorial staff.

"I feel elated. It's an honor for me to be recommended by incumbent Roxas," Purisima said. "But I will not entertain what we are doing in improve the PNP and wait for the President to choose the new PNP chief in due time."

Asked if Roxas and Mr. Aquino had spoken to him about his impending designation as PNP director general, he said: "We haven't yet talk about it."

A member of the Philippine Military Academy Class of 1981, Purisima was assigned to the Presidential Security Group, which covered the President during the tumultuous years of the presidency of Gloriamay now Gloria Macapagal Arroyo.

It was during that time that Purisima developed a close friendship with Mr. Aquino.

Focus on training

A seasoned investigator, Purisima said he would focus on improving the basic training of policemen, given the chance to lead the PNP.

"If we ask ordinary policemen what their job is, I'm sure most of them will not be able to answer you appropriately because of their current ranks," he said.

"That's why we have to go back to their basic police training and make them understand their individual duties and responsibilities."

Sotto finds when it rains, it pours

From page A1

the contentious measure months ago.

Led by Dr. Sylvia Estrada-Claudio of De La University of the Philippines Center for Women's Studies, the informal group banged De Lima yesterday morning for its 21-page complaint charging Estrada with violation of the Intellectual Property Code of the Philippines.

But Sotto insisted in a text message that the "broadsides" stemmed from his opposition to the RH bill, adding he welcomed the complaint, as it allowed him the chance to explain his side of the story.

Claudio said the issuance that Sotto was expected to adhere to a higher standard of creative best integrity.

Kenneth Theodore Kang of Filipino Freethinkers Inc. said scientists and others "who have been elected, have had power and supposedly good capacity] espoused positions" should be held to a higher standard when it comes to intellectual output.

Kang noted that Sotto had already dismissed his critics as "bad blogger," yet netizens "need to be very careful with everything we say to make sure it is verifiable."

Claudio said that plagiarism "is a difficult issue for academicians, especially since some centers insist that it is an issue exclusive to academics."

She also questioned Sotto's insistence that the ethics complaint is simply a "pro-RH effort that we are doing a disservice on."

Not all pro-RH

Claudio said that while many of those who closed over Sotto's plagiarized statements are also supporters of the RH bill, it did not follow that all signatories to the ethics complaint were pro-RH.

"Those of us who are pro-RH have our own statements, but we never plagiarize, we never misattribute and the issue of intellectual honesty where plagiarism comes in is about honesty, truthfulness in your sources and giving the right information," she added.

Claudio lamented that while young children were taught not to cheat as part of basic values, it was disturbing that Sotto seemed to have no sense of plagiarism and that it was not considered serious in the Philippines.

The complaint that named the senator as Claudio, Kang and 36 others including the breastfeeders contained a chart that showed portions of Sotto's three speeches against the RH bill on the left and their "original text" from articles he supposedly copied from on the right.

Near verbatim

The academicians alleged that Sotto's Aug. 13 speech for example, copied "near verbatim" a blog entry posted by RH-based writer Sarah Pagsi about Dr. Natividad Cleofas Medina's experiences as the son of the pill.

They also claimed that Sotto's Aug. 14 speech copied heavily from three other RH-based bloggers Marites C. Rasland who discussed Margaret Sanger and her life of planned parenthood; Peter Engelman who also wrote about Sanger and James Fremchette's posts on Edwardo Labella's island against artificial birth control.

The group said the Aug. 13 anti-RH speech also contained portions from a study titled "Truth About Contraceptives" and another work he should have considered: "C-FAM" about the United Nations agency and efforts to reduce religious thinking on contraceptives.

Sotto's Sept. 3 speech translated into Filipino portions of a 1960 speech of the late US Sen. Robert Kennedy that was delivered in South Africa at the height of apartheid.

The complaint charged Sotto of refusing to acknowledge that he copied portions of his speech "from these authors, without giving them proper attribution."

Critics charged that when Sotto took the microphone on Aug. 29 after the plagiarism accusation came out, Sotto, speaking in Filipino, asserted that "plagiarism is not a crime in the Philippines," and sincerely asked that the position of his speech discussing Multinational positions off the Senate records.

"To this date, . . . Sotto has not owned up to the slow instances of copying without attribution from the Roberts and Kennedy speeches," the complaint said.

Claudio said the group was in touch with the four RH-based bloggers who had expressed interest in signing the complaint but had logistical problems.

Not crime here?

The group insisted Sotto's claim that plagiarism was not a crime in the Philippines stemming a decision written by former Supreme Court Associate Justice and now Chief Justice of the Philippines Maria Lourdes Sereno in her dissenting opinion on a similar case against colleague Mariano del Castillo noted that "plagiarism, with its lack of attribution, shatters the connection between the original author's name and the work.

"It plagiarist, by falsely claiming authorship of someone else's creation, diminishes the author's originality in receiving credit," the quote from Sereno's opinion said.

Later in the afternoon session, Sotto apologized to the family of the late US Sen. Robert Kennedy for using a portion of Kennedy's 1960 speech in his third speech against the RH bill.

Still, Sotto insisted that "copying or imitation is the greatest form of flattery" in applying the compliment of part of Kennedy's "Day of Affirmation" speech.

Sotto added that his office had been in touch with representatives of the Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights and has explained the situation to them.

"According to the one we talked to in the foundation, they were made to believe that I recognized the speech," Sotto explained.

Kennedy's daughter Kerry, a human rights activist, earlier accused Sotto of "flagrantly and purposely" plagiarizing her father's speech and asked that the senator apologize for "his unethical, unprincipled theft of Robert Kennedy's intellectual property and the intellectual property" of the US-based bloggers.

"In addition, I am particularly ashamed to see a supposedly Catholic leader in support of global human rights (falsified) by Senator Sotto as an argument against the right to contraception," she added.

HIGA TREE LIGHTING

Wife of Mayor Jerusmino Calleno - Edna Calleno, Vice Mayor Marlon Penalero, Santa Claus, Hans Sy President of SM Prime Holdings, Inc, SM Multi-Area officials launched the Caloocan The Wonderworld celebration last Sunday, Nov. 11, 2012. Officially unveiling and lighting the 99-ft tree/Social Christmas Tree—the tallest indoor tree in the country were wife of Yeap Clay Mayor Calleno, Mrs. Edna Calleno, Vice Mayor Marlon Penalero and SM Prime Holdings, Inc. President Hans Sy. Shoppers will enjoy weekly meet and greets with Santa Claus, a Grand Festival of Lights parade every Saturday starting Dec 1 at 12nn and photo ops with well-loved children's toys. ADVT.

Robredo plane crash traced to pilot error

From page A1

gency situation.

The committee also blamed engine failure and poor management by AviaTour's Fly'n Inc., in shelling Balintang's supposed maintenance with officers of the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP) for the issuance of a certificate of airworthiness without proper tests.

The plane crashed into the Mindoro Sea.

Mr. Aquino has informed Balintang's widow, Jane, and her three daughters of the findings.

"When I first read the initial results of the investigation, I felt a mixture of sadness and disbelief," the Aquino aide reported.

"The process of accident probe of an...ane (Sunday) 18 months did that job, if the rules of the industry were followed, it (time to solve) were only faithful to their obligations, the tragedy could have been avoided," he said.

Option of turning back

Mr. Aquino said Balintang lacked the proper experience and training for "one engine inoperative emergency" even though some said he was an engine pilot.

"It's clear he failed to fly the plane safely on one remaining engine. Apart from the...23 minutes after taking off from Manila, he became aware that the engine malfunctioned, but instead of turning back, they flew ahead to Mindoro," he said.

"They were airborne for 36 minutes before the plane crashed. That means, if they had turned back immediately to Mactan, there was a high possibility the accident could have been avoided," Mr. Aquino said.

The ill-fated Pilatus Britten-Norman Islander aircraft left Ninoy Aquino International Airport in Pasay at around 3 p.m. At about 4:25 p.m., it crashed into the waters of Mauhao, killing Robredo, Balintang and his copilot Rikki Chanel Jhon Hopoi.

Key errors

Robredo's aide, Senior Inspector Jose Mercado, survived...ucene using through a hole in the plane to shore.

Malacañang honored Robredo with a state funeral.

CAPT. Jessup Balintang, chair and CEO of AviaTour Fly'n Inc., poses with one of the firm's planes during an interview with the Cebu Daily News on Dec. 1, 2010.

THE inspector's last photo of him taken by Senior Inspector Jose Robredo taken at the Cebu International Convention Center on Aug. 18.

Robredo wishes hopes findings would lead to reforms

LAWYER MARIA Lucinor "Lesa" Robredo, widow of the late Interior Secretary Jesse Robredo, said she wholeheartedly accepted the result of the investigation into the burning plane crash that killed her husband.

"The government did not fail us," she said, adding she blamed no one for what happened. "The crash report will not bring Jesse back," she said.

"Although his death was sudden and a big loss for many, I know that Jesse was prepared to face the Lord. He lived a full and honorable life. He could have done many things more but it is God's will on what time," she said.

In a statement published on the online Official Gazette, Lesa said the investigation had led to a fitting closure despite the "painful lessons" left by the accident.

She said she hoped the investigation would lead to reforms that would save many lives and ensure the safety of airline passengers.

Robredo's remains were recovered at the bottom of the sea off Masbate City, three days after the crash.

He was buried on Sept. 4.—Reports From Michael Lim Ubac in Manila and Anne Gabalfin Saltiva, Inquirer Southern Luzon

The committee, chaired by Capt. Amado Soliman Jr., cited several key errors by the pilot, but the most flagrant was: "When the right-hand engine became problematic, he continued to fly away from Cebu instead of turning back."

While one engine had problems, both engines were still functioning and continued to do so for 20 minutes. And Cebu has the most modern air navigation and communication equipment, the longest runway, the widest airstrip, the most advanced and most trained staff, fire and rescue equipment, and personnel, it added.

"Mostly it was the pilot's inability to control that aircraft on an emergency situation when he had one engine," Soliman said.

The other errors cited by the panel were:

- The pilot had no previous experience on the flight route.
- The pilot has situational awareness with regard to the plane's relative position to Mactan-Lapu-Lapu.
- The pilot's forces reserved did not cover "one-engine inoperative emergency" during his proficiency flight.
- Upon receiving Mayday airspace, the pilot could not...ompower approach procedures, such as premature extension of landing gears and flaps, and improper approach maneuver.

Against procedures

Ms. Aquino said Balintang's premature extension of the landing gear and flaps ran counter to the Piper Seneca Flight Manual Procedures for...ruin engine planes.

"According to the report, this contributed to the drag that slowed down the plane until this could no longer be controlled and it crashed," he said.

Accordingly, pilot error caused the crash, and Balintang "improperly handled a one-engine inoperative emergency," Soliman said during a...Senate hearing in Pasay. Some presentations.

Soliman said: "Among airline pilots, single engine is just a routine maneuver. I don't know why in general aviation, there seems to be a problem. Even if you lose an engine—or...ne's single engine ... aircraft...is doesn't have to end in an accident. But it will end in an accident if the pilot lacks the training to handle that aircraft during an emergency situation like [balancing] one engine."

"It took three guys [Sadiro Odin and all landed with two engines because the engine...rolled out 37 minutes after the first indication of trouble. So he was only 23 minutes out of Mactan. He could have very well gone back for a re-fuel and land with no engine."

Hard starting

The committee concluded that the right-hand engine experienced "hard starting" after the initial flight and was never heated propeller, but this was not recorded in the aircraft logbook.

Specifically, two screws that held the idler gear shaft in place had "loosened ballasts." "The loss in the right of the idler gear screws supposed to hold the screws in place was also found broken.

The committee concluded the stoppage of the right hand engine caused the emergency, saying the stoppage was "likely caused" by...ubricated fuel supply and erratic engine firing, and the intermittent fuel supply was caused by parts failure due to bad maintenance.

It noted that AviaTour was not notified by the aircraft manufacturer and by CAAP to conduct maintenance work on the aircraft.

The committee found flaws in the management of AviaTour's, including the improper issuance of an airworthiness certificate.

Airworthiness

An airworthiness inspector Fernando Abalos approved the test flight permit for renewal of the airworthiness certificate for the plane on Jan. 7, 2011, but there was no record in the aircraft logbook of the test flight, the committee said.

It check with Mactan airport log showed no flight plan for the plane was filed on that day, it added.

Capt. Felimon Oreniza, AviaTour's flight instructor, testified that Balintang asked him to sign the...ane's test report even though he did not fly the plane on Jan. 7, the committee said.

On Jan. 17, Abalos endorsed the application for airworthiness certificate renewal and accuracy in the database. Around the documents for such a renewal had been reviewed by Abalos. On Feb. 2, the certificate of airworthiness was released to Armand Gomez of AviaTour's, but this was predated to Jan. 7.

'Deception and fraud'

"Captain Balintang committed with airworthiness inspector Abalos to expedite the processing and approval of the certificate of airworthiness," the committee concluded.

"It was evident that they committed deception and fraud. The core: The lives of three people," the President said. "This is a symptom of an anomaly in a system that has long prevailed, and which we are now addressing. We are not after the persons who to continue. That's why evidence would continue to be gathered to hold accountable those who have shortcomings on the part of AviaTour and even the CAAP."

Mr. Aquino ordered an audit of the permits and licenses issued by the CAAP and the straightening of the rules for the operations of flying schools and airlines.

"We don't want this tragedy to happen to anyone," he said. "We want to make sure that from the tragedy that befell him. Let's not allow his passing to come to naught."

CAAP Director General William Hotchkiss III ordered the creation of a special investigating committee to look into the administrative and criminal culpabilities of CAAP and AviaTour's personnel.

"AviaTour has been suspended but not its personnel, we are. We need to go through due process," Hotchkiss said.

Firm still under probe for dumping waste into Subic Bay–SBMA

From page A1

In another interview with MNC, Garcia said the SBMA would ask Glen Defense to explain the wastes it had previously collected and how these were disposed.

Garcia said the SBMA wanted to be sure Philippine regulations were followed.

Lasala said the results of the SBMA Ecology Center's initial investigation showed that ship waste dumped into the bay was made by MT Glen Guardian, a vessel operated by Glenn Defense, was not hazardous.

But tests conducted by Subic Water and Sewerage Co. showed the organics contents of the wastes were "beyond permissible limits," according to the utility's spokesperson, Herman Rabuyon.

Subic Water tested a sample provided by the SBMA Ecology Center and found it had enough, Rabuyon said, but found it to be of industrial strength.

He became aware said that industrial grade waste was hazardous and its disposal in Philippine waters was a violation of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Administrative Order No. 35 setting standards for the disposal of wastewater.

Environment Secretary Ramon Paje on Monday said that the DENR had not yet accepted the finding that the waste dumped by the Glenn Guardian into Subic Bay was domestic waste and not hazardous.

Paje said the DENR was still waiting for the report of the Philippine Coast Guard, the agency tasked with the implementation of standards and regulations pertaining to environmental protection in

IN THE KNOW

ACCREDITED is a Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) procedural manual on how and by whom waste management shall be maintained in the implementation rules for Republic Act No. 6969, or the Toxic Substances, Hazardous and Nuclear Wastes Control Act.

- Hazardous wastes are substances brought to this country without any sale, commercial, industrial, agricultural or economic usage.
- Wastes are considered hazardous if they are listed in the Classification of Prescribed Hazardous Wastes, which groups substances as wastes with cyanide, acid wastes, alkali wastes, wastes with inorganic chemicals, reactive chemical wastes, waste organic solvent, oil, containers, immobilized wastes and organic chemicals.
- Toxic wastes are substances that are poisonous and have carcinogenic, mutagenic, or teratogenic effects on human or other life forms.
- A community of chemical substances stored, imported, exported, used, processed, manufactured or transported in the country is maintained by the DENR's Environmental Management Bureau.

The list called the Philippine Inventory of Chemicals and Chemical Substances, serves as a guide for manufacturers, importers, distributors and users of chemicals in the conduct of their business. Inquirer Research

Philippine seas.

Conflicting findings

Two senators on Tuesday said that the conflicting findings made a botanic inquiry into the alleged pollution of Philippine waters more imperative.

Senator Gregorio Honasan and Loren Legarda also said the...nouncement of retired Vice Admiral Ma. Consuelo Chan, CEO of Glenn Defense, at a news conference on Monday that the waste was processed and therefore not hazardous could be premature.

"Now can be say this early that the waste was processed? My question is, whose side is he on?" said Honasan, vice chair of the Senate defense committee.

Legarda, chair of the Senate foreign relations committee, said Mayuga's claim was premature in the respect that the waste dumped in Philippine waters by Glenn Defense was "toxic."

"According that the initial report about the waste being toxic is incorrect, why would the Philippine Coast Guard, the...ity and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources claim otherwise"? Legarda said.

The...ustices of...nomentare passed into Philippine waters "cannot be assessed," she said.

Senators Miriam Defensor Santiago, Ejercito Estrada III and Legarda filed separate resolutions on Monday asking the Senate to investigate the alleged dumping of hazardous waste in Subic.

House probe

Glenn Defense may also be facing an investigation in the House of Representatives.

Bayan Muna Rep. Teodoro Casiño on Tuesday filed a resolution asking the House foreign affairs committee to investigate the controversy.

Casiño said Glenn Defense should not use the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA) as cover for its wrongdoing.

Senator Santiago has suggested the termination of the VFA, which she believes has been violated in the pollution at Subic Bay is being blamed on Glenn Defense.

Lawyers for Glenn Defense have invoked the VFA in leading off an SBMA investigation, but the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) and Santiago say the agreement covers only visiting US armed forces, not civilian contractors.

At the news conference on Monday, Mayuga acknowledged that his company was not covered by the VFA.

Glenn Defense Marine Philippines is the local operator of the Singapore-based contractor that handles domestic waste from US Navy ships.

"We service only US Navy ships, but we are not in any way included in VFA arrangements," Mayuga said.

SBMA's Garcia said the agency would thoroughly review Glenn Defense's waste collection and dumping methods.

"We're compiling all the records and then summarizing [and] by next week, maybe, 2011," Garcia said. "[The] ecology and seaport [department] are compiling everything. And based on what we find, we'll submit a final report to Malacañang and the Senate when the hearings begin."

No permit

An SBMA ecology team, acting on a "hazard alert," board of the Glenn Guardian on Oct. 11 and found the vessel carrying 168,500 liters of domestic waste and 760 liters of bilge water (water mixed with oil and grease) removed from the US Navy ship Emory Land docked at a pier in Subic.

The team said the vessel could not be found that the waste would be dumped 37 kilometers off Subic. The team said Glenn Defense had no permit from the government to dump the waste in Philippine waters.

In a statement, the SBMA said the bilge waste collected by Glenn Defense from American ships docked on the bay last month was hauled by an accredited waste hauler and taken to an accredited waste treatment plant.

"We are still in the process of determining if all oily bilge water has been treated properly and is covered by the necessary certificates of treatment," the SBMA said.

The "raw untreated domestic waste water," however, was discharged "in the high seas, approximately 37 nautical miles [61 kilometers] from the nearest land point," it said.

In an accredited waste treatment plants.

"We are compiling with other government agencies to verify compliance with other regulatory requirements [that] may be related to this matter. A formal report will be issued subsequently," the SBMA statement said.

No VFA invocation?

Lasala also resisted to Mayuga's statement that Glenn Defense did not invoke the VFA to contract the SBMA investigation.

Lasala said: "You have a copy of their Glenn Defense's] letter. They spent three months of that letter invoking their exemption under the VFA. They misread. They have apparently changed their tune."

Lasala said the letter from Glenn Defense's lawyers, along with the final investigation report, would be submitted to the Senate at the opening of the investigation. With reports from Cathy Rosauan and Christine Figueroa

Initial findings

Lasala stressed that the statement the SBMA released on Monday was "only the initial findings and just about the incident in October."

He said the review he ordered would include how Glenn Defense delivered and discharged the waste from the nuclear submarine that docked in Subic Bay for the last few months.

Glenn Defense, according to Lasala, is the exclusive contractor of the US Navy and it services the nuclear submarine that docked here during the recently concluded military exercises between Philippine and American troops.

Garcia also clarified that the SBMA was still investigating whether the oily wastes collected from US vessels were retained before they were dumped.

"We're looking at records as to how much they collected, and whether these had all been treated, before these were dumped," he said.

"We are not connecting with others unannounced agencies to verify compliance with other regulatory requirements [that] may be related to this matter. A formal report will be issued subsequently," the SBMA statement said.

No VFA invocation?

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Thousands gypped in P12-billion scam

From page A1

Still in the midst more against respondents and directors of Atman Farms is namely Manuel S. Arnaldo, Fernando "Nonoy" B. Lana, Lelsin Lim Uni, Edward U. Lim, William L. Fuentes, Marcelle M. Rodrigues and Estelle Lopez.

High return

The first treasurer of the company were low-income people but professionals and retired employees followed because of the promise of a high return on investment, Mendez said.

"The first clients of Atman Farms were mostly teachers in Pagadian City who invested P1,000 with a 70 percent return after one week," he said.

The NBI deputy director said Lana, who managed the multi-billion scam, "is a former driver and earlier purchased a lot to set up located near the Pagadian City public market."

Lana's boss, Arnaldo, is a 32-year-old Malaysian, whose Malaysian name is Muhammad Saiffuz Saaid. His wife is identified as Hanafi Pendalam and they have two children, ages 2 and 1.

Lana and Arnaldo and their families are now in hiding, according to Mendez.

Private planes

The NBI official said Arnaldo reportedly owned three private planes and two units at Upper McKinley Hills Garden Villa in Taguig City. He also owns a house in Cebu City and Cagayan City.

"He owns his offices in Malaysia and Vietnam, using private planes and luxury cars," Mendez said.

He said Atman Farmers was able to lure investors by offering a 50 percent to 60 percent return on investment within eight days, and a 50-percent to 80-percent profit for 90 to 120 days.

"The amount of interest varies depending on the investment or money placement," Mendez said.

Modus operandi

He said the modus operandi of Atman Farmers was to offer a return through a postdated check of the entire sum of the investment plus a profit up to 80 percent.

"Because of the huge interest, the numbers of investors of Atman Farms increased tremendously," Mendez said.

Due to its success in Pagadian City, Atman Farmers expanded its business to other cities and provinces like Zamboanga in Mindanao and to Cebu City, he said.

Lands, houses mortgaged

With the huge increase in the number of investors, Atman Farms raised its required minimum investment from P1,000 to P200,000," Mendez said.

"And in order to ensure the new requirement, investors pooled their resources and others mortgaged lands and houses to comply with the requirement," Mendez said.

He said investors started losing up to 2 in the morning although the office of Atman Farms' manager had set to open at 8 a.m.

No queues for VIPS

Every day some 3,000 people were losing up at the office of Atman Farms in Pagadian City. "But VIPs were not required to fall in line and could deal directly with Lana," Mendez said.

"The complainants said at the beginning that they thought they could realize their dreams to own cars and expensive things by making more investments in Atman Farmers," Mendez said.

He said the victims trusted Atman Farmers largely because of endorsements from local officials.

"They trusted Atman Farmers because even local government officials had openly endorsed it and admitted to have invested also," Mendez explained.

Mendez said the NBI had received reports that government funds could have been used to invest in Atman Farmers.

"We are currently investigating if government funds were used by local officials who invested in the scam," Mendez said.

He declined to name the officials, but said charges would be filed against those officials found to have used public funds.

Mendez said investors had started filing complaints at the NBI against Atman Farmers in September for its failure to pay back their money.

Bouncing checks

In fact, the victims could receive cash by just showing their official receipts. But later, investors were issued postdated checks with a 30-day maturity date in lieu of cash.

"But the checks issued by Atman Farmers proved to be worthless and the investors was eventually closed," Mendez said.

Mendez said some victims had resorted to burning the houses of relatives of Atman Farmers employees. "So far, two houses of Lana's relatives were torched by victims who demanded their money return their money," he said.

Mendez said that complainants had been going to Export Building in the Cebu City Business Park office of Atman Farmers, registered under another name, DREYZ and Sha Trading.

In Lanao del Sur, Mendez said, Atman Farmers used another name, Indoh Amer Business Co.

Pagadian cops sacked for inaction

By Marlet Ratua

THE PHILIPPINE National Police yesterday ordered the administrative relief of several policemen, including the Pagadian City police chief, for their alleged involvements in a pyramid scam in the Visayas and Mindanao.

Chief Supt. Napoleon Estilles, PNP director in the Zamboanga Peninsula, said the sacked members of the Zamboanga del Sur police office had failed to comply with his order to look into reports that some policemen were seen "escorting" officials of Atman Farmers Inc., the company behind the scam.

Assuring those relieved was Supt. Kenneth Hadra Mencios, Pagadian City police chief, who had been tasked by Estilles with leading the investigation of the double-year money scam.

"However, it took time for [Estilles] and his men to conduct such investigation, thus delaying [any] order ... for the immediate action on the said matter," Estilles said in a statement.

"My order is clear. I do not tolerate any anomalies under my command. I relieved [the policemen] under Mission for failure to conduct a report about the existing problem in Pagadian City," he added.

Estilles warned other police personnel under his command that they would face administrative cases should they be found to be engaged in the investment scam and illegal gambling.

The police official said PNP members involved in any wrongdoing should attend a retraining program in Camp Alonsolan in Pagadian City before they can be given new assignments.

'AMPAKLIN shows Pagadian City Mayor Samuel Co announcing the issuance of a temporary business permit to Atman Farms.

Teacher kills self after losing his retirement money

From page A1

as a loan from the Armed Forces of the Philippines Savings and Loan Association (AFPSLAI) after losing investment due to could at least double it after a certain period.

"He could only vent his ire on planes after losing his money investment," Agustin said, referring to Atman Farmers Group Phils. Inc.

Like the soldier, Agustin also lost money, P1.2 million, in the investment scheme run by Manuel Arnaldo, said to be a Filipino-Malaysian—had transpired.

Jerome Agustin and the soldier were among thousands of victims of the "double your money" scheme pulled by Atman Farms, whose operators, like the recent money have disappeared.

Agustin said what could have convinced more people in invest in the scheme was that many had not only earned money by themselves initially but profited.

"I had initially invested P100,000 and it doubled after the first month. I was enticed to put in more, about P1.3 million. Many people invested with me. We lost our money," she said.

P100,000 loan

A 53-year-old housewife lost her husband's AFPSLAI loan of P100,000 in the Atman scheme.

But what worries her more is that her husband, a Muslim official, is among the employees now investing in the scheme.

In all, their group lost P1.7 million in September when more defaulted on payments.

"(Atman) said it was only missing due to its failure to renew its permit to operate in Pagadian City," she said. But Atman never reopened. And it did not return their money.

The housewife, who requested anonymity for personal reasons, said what made her case worse is that she had nothing to prove she invested in Atman.

"All my receipts had been turned over to an Atman staff," she said.

Mayor Co

In other Pagadian illegal Samuel Co announced that all those with original receipts would be issued checks, the housewife said she sighed with relief.

But the checks that Co had issued bounced for lack of funds.

Cavillez said Co would be instrumental in the operations of Atman in Pagadian City.

"He is simply not an investor because when Atman shut down, he assisted the people they could get their money back," he said.

Mayor Co denied issuing checks to investors.

"The checks we gave out were recovered from the Atman office here. I did not issue these checks. We just distributed," Co told this business reporter by phone.

Co also denied being involved in the scam, saying his name was being dragged because of politics.

Cavillez said the Atman scheme was quite a common matter. "It has worked in other investigation, which should lead to the prosecution of those behind it.

A few days ago, pandemonium erupted in Barangay Sunset in Pagadian as thousands of people converged near the office of Atman Trading.

INVESTMENT SCAM Victims file complaints at the National Bureau of Investigation in Pagadian City against Manuel Arnaldo and other suspects who allegedly ran off with their money.

Anam had ceased to operate, defrauding thousands of investors of their hard-earned money, most of whom were ordinary citizens.

What made the situation more maddening is the entry of the city mayor of Pagadian, who claimed he was instrumental in distributes checks issued by Anam Trading," Cavillez said in a letter he sent to the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI).

"The extent of the scandal was so grave that ordinary people, like farmers, teachers, soldiers, fishermen, soldiers, lawyers, housewives and prominent people were victimized," he added.

The exact number of victims was still being determined, totalling "in the hundreds." Cavillez alone, it would easily reach 1,000.

Among the victims are members of the Pagadian City Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Bhangsad Sinsuat Sr., a chamber official, said he lost P563 million in the scheme.

"More than 90 percent of businessmen in Pagadian City have invested with Amaldio," Sinsuat said.

Quite attractive

The scheme was so attractive that even a religious group pooled its members' money to invest in Anam.

Pastor Rigoldus Duave of the Christ the Lord of Glory group said at least 3,000 members encouraged to turn millions and put it in Anam.

Duave urged Interior Secretary Mar Roxas, who came to Pagadian City on Friday, to help the defrauded investors run after Amaldio and other Anam officials.

Roxas was told that there were reports that many local governments in Mindanao also used their internal revenue allotments (IRA) to invest in Anam.

Roxas pledged to look into the report and said he would order an audit of the IRA of some local governments, including Pagadian City.

"This is sad but we will do our best to prosecute those involved," he said.

Chief Supt. Mario Yarga, deputy director for administration of the Philippine National Police, said the investigation in to Amaldo's activities was being spearheaded by the NBI.

Cebu victims

In Cebu City, three businessmen will be big strategic capital Amaro in the hope of getting back P100 million in vanished investments.

Ayuhbhan Gooding, Ayuhbhan Shanahan and Manuel Gooding, trained Investment and Exchange Commission (SEC) Director Lin-dora Emilio on Tuesday to reason documents about the company.

The businessmen come from Lanao del Sur but are based in Cebu and engaged in buying and selling vehicles, cell phones and laptops.

In an interview, Shanahan said he wanted to get back the P30 million he invested because part of the money came from his relatives who, believing they would get high returns, entrusted their money to him.

Ayuhbhan invested P10 million while Manuel's investment reached P57 million.

Manuel and Ayuhbhan, who are cousins, also told the bureau that part of the money they invested came from their relatives.

Shanahan said that they decided to invest in Anam after they learned that the mayor of Pagadian City invested in the company and even issued a business permit to the company to operate in the city.

The three had asked Cebu journalists to blot their photos and footages that showed them as they were about the their fraud.

They reminded that in Lanao, some of the investors have threatened to kill those who are part of the investment by them if their money would not be returned.

Manuel said they wanted to ensure their safety, as their relatives have been demanding the return of their money.

Shanahan said he filed a case against the owner and director of the company before the Manila Regional Trial Court Br. 18, which was passed to the Anam office in Export building at the Cebu Business Park.

A copy of the order was also posted on the house at 99 Lapaz Village II, Subdivision in the address given by Amaldio in Cebu City.

Gooding said the company was not incorporated in Cebu, although the incorporation were based in Cebu. With reports from Correal Jolor Mateo, Inquirer Visayas

15 party-list groups vent their ire on Bayan Muna

By Christian V. Esguerra

IS IT now Bayan Muna against the world?

The militant party-list group has found itself on the defensive following a rather unusual protest staged by at least 15 other organizations who represent sectors now sitting in the House of Representatives.

Ate Waray and company simultaneously "chased" their offices at the Batasang Pambansa complex to protest Bayan Muna's campaign to disqualify fellow party-list organizations for allegedly not representing marginalized sectors.

Posted on the door of Bayan Rep. Carol Jayne Lopez's office was a note saying: "For solidarity, Inna, please proceed in the office of Bayan Muna party-list."

The note posted on the door of Rep. Teodoro Casiño's office read: "Next time inanib kayo, saying the group was "temporarily" stopping its medical, scholarship and other programs for the poor because of allegations by the Bayan Muna group that our party-list (group) is not really providing services."

As Waray intervened those seeking assistance to proceed to the offices of Bayan Muna Representatives Teodoro Casiño and Neri Colmenares as the group would be given "the opportunity to prove that it is the only one that helps."

From interviews with the bayan-is, Neri said the move was meant to send a message to Bayan Muna. "We don't have the monopoly of helping others. Without us, what would you do?"

Told about the protest, Casiño said the criticisms that Ate Waray was getting was "par for the course," especially with the coming midterm elections.

"My appeal to them is to take it in stride. This is part of the election season. Each party-list group will try to get votes for itself, but services and assistance should not be used for votes. Bayan Muna would try our best to assist on days (those who will not get help from other party-list groups)," he said in a phone interview.

Neri said the move to disrupt assistance came after a meeting among party-list groups on Monday. Among those represented in the meeting were Ako Bicol, Abono, Coop-Natco, Agbaini, Cibac, Akbayan, Gabriela, Anad and Bagong Bayanihan, he said.

Neri suspected that Bayan Muna wanted for group disqualified so it could receive votes from Region 8, as Ate Waray hails from. He said Bayan Muna used to dominate votes in the region until Ate Waray came into the picture.

Noting that a vote could push only one group on election day, Casiño said party-list organizations "naturally" compete with one another.

"Understandably, if [establish] party-list group wants to get votes, say, from Region 8 which is dominated by Ate Waray, it would affect the votes of an Ate Waray," he said.

But "local and party-list groups could 'reunite.'"

"Why don't they just live and let live? Why do we have to go against one another? They have their own people to help, we also have ours," he said.

Global stuns Meralco, gains UFL finals

SPORTS
Editor Teddyboy S. Melendres
Assistant Editor Francis T. J. Cidoncha

Streaking Painters battle struggling Boosters

By Musong R. Castillo

NLEX trims JRU; B'water triumphs

NLEX guard Kirk Long maneuvers a jumper against the defense of JRU's Ed Tu Rocky Ardire.

By Jasmine W. Payo

Enriquez seizes lead in PBC tilt

UV, Holy Trinity send PCCL rivals packing

Guarde, Pacheco bag Palawan titles

Legaspi, Medalla triumph

Cali dangles title vs Tagle

Highlands golf for a cause

Clash of titans: NCA vs Pasay cockers Friday

Manny learns to pace himself

BOXING'S reigning superstar Manny Pacquiao talks basketball and other stuff with former NBA superstars Charles Barkley and Reggie Miller.

By Ray Luarca

MANNY Pacquiao has finally realized the value of moderation.

Unlike before, when he trained with relentless abandon and pushed himself to exhaustion, Pacquiao now knows what his body says.

Entering the crucial phase of preparation for his fourth showdown with Juan Manuel Marquez on Dec. 8, Pacquiao has learned to ease the match off for the day to give his 33-year-old body time to recuperate for tougher grinds ahead of the stellar weight pay-per-view battle at 60,00 Grand Arena in Las Vegas.

"Before, it was always heavy training for me every day—morning and afternoon," Pacquiao told GMA-7's Dyan Castillejo on Sunday (Monday in Manila) in Hollywood. "Now, I've learned to pace myself."

Pacquiao no longer asks trainer Freddie Roach for more rounds with the mitts and for other training regimen when he feels his body can't take any more pounding.

But when he's in sync, of course, Pacquiao resorts to his old training ways—antiquet lungs—at Roach's Wild Card Gym.

While he has temporarily shelved playing basketball these days, Pacquiao still ignores the opportunity to shoot balls with NBA Hall of Famers and Olympic gold medalists Charles Barkley, now a noted NBA analyst, and former superstar Reggie Miller on Monday.

The 47-year-old Miller, the TNT network commentator for the NBA, even joined Pacquiao in his early morning run at Griffith Park in Hollywood, according to a TMZ report.

Asked about how playing-mind shoot-out, Miller said Pacquiao definitely got the game. "You only a be the man in the ring, but he's got an awesome jump shot too."

Fiery Heat trio downs Rockets

HOUSTON—LeBron James scored a season-high 38 points as the Miami Heat rallied to beat the Houston Rockets, 119-116, in the NBA on Monday.

Chris Bosh had 24 points and 10 rebounds and Dwyane Wade scored 18 points for the Heat, who shot 47.6 percent from 3-point range (10-of-21) and 51 percent from the field.

Chandler Parsons scored a career-high 25 points and Omer Asik had a season-best 19 points and 14 rebounds for the Rockets, who led 110-108 with 90 seconds left.

James went 3 for 4 from the free throw line over the next minute, then drove for the go-ahead layup with 19 seconds left.

Jeremy Lin shot an airball from 3-point range with 14 seconds left. Mario caught it and the Heat escaped with their sixth straight win over Houston.

In Chicago, Boston's Rajon Rondo had 20 points, nine rebounds and 10 assists to lead the Celtics over the Bulls 104-91.

Rondo helped Boston build a 12-point lead on 56-percent shooting. He recorded his seventh of consecutive games with 10 or more assists to 11, the longest since John Stockton had 27 straight from Feb. 27 to Nov. 19, 2000.

CHECK OUT PLAYOFF TIME, TV, Toronto 122 (Ibaka 22, Lowry 20, Gilbert 20) Milwaukee 110, Philadelphia 92, Minnesota 96, Dallas 87, Atlanta 90, Portland 91, Phoenix 110, Denver 106

Tour aces get going in Canlubang Invt'l

CANLUBANG, Laguna—Seven campaigners Frankie Minoza and Arthur Hachuela topple the local ICTSI Tour today as the Canlubang Invitational Tour—off at the complex's fourth season.

Minoza, winner of last week's Japan Senior Open, and Pasco-ten, 2nds in the same event, become the field chasing the P500,000 winner's prize.

Jay Bayron, another international winner last week, is also in the fold and is tipped as one of the players to beat owing to his familiarity with the Robert Trent Jones designed course.

Arnesto Morakiel, the defending champion, is out to secure the seven finishes this year.

Former Canlubang members in the PBL Interclub like Mark Hernando, Rufino Bayron, Jessi Abubo, Jaroste Boy Gadon and Jessie Balandres also keen as players to watch.

Canlubang Invitational is the second-to-last stop in the 15-leg Tour with Pinoy Pride as the finale.

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String of minor errors did suspects in

Police: Brains in model's slay, cohorts committed blunder after blunder

By Julie M. Aurelio

IT WAS a string of minor errors committed by the suspects in the murder of part-time model Julie Ann Rodelas that provided the police with the break they needed to solve the case.

"If the suspects had eaten that McDonald's takeout [meal] instead of giving it to the victim, then things may have taken longer to figure out," Insp. Elmer Monsalve, homicide section chief of the Quezon City Police District, told the Inquirer yesterday.

When Rodelas' body was found on 16th Avenue in Cubao, Quezon City, she was clutching a plastic bag containing a burger and a receipt issued by the fastfood restaurant.

The receipt issued by the McDonald's/UN Avenue branch at 2:32 a.m. of Nov. 6—just a few hours before the discovery of the victim's body—was the first clue pursued by case investigator PO2 Eugene Hernandez.

First break

Hernandez's first move was to ask the restaurant if it had any footage taken by its closed-circuit television camera to help them determine the identity of the person who bought the burger.

That same latter turned out to be Hernando Quintalino Jr., the boyfriend of Althea Abanzinos, a model who was a friend of the victim.

Police investigation showed that the victim was abducted in Pasay City by Quintalino and his cohorts and later on killed in Quezon City because Abanzinos held a grudge against her. Quintalino had offered to watch the victim's breasts.

Based on the statement issued by Jayrose Pineda, initially considered a suspect until he offered to testify against Quintalino and Abanzinos, the burger was first given to him.

Pineda, however, used the food as an excuse to check on Rodelas who was being molested by a noncooperative victim. He threw it a room inside group's safehouse in Balara Compound, Barangay Culiat.

Aldea then passed on the burger to the victim but she said she would not as she's dog-tired her hands.

The telltale receipt was eventually found in her left hand, becoming the first clue to solving the penalty, said Monsalve.

"That was their first mistake. The suspects should have eaten it when the burger was given to them," the official added.

UST student falls to death on campus

A JUNIOR biology student of the University of Santo Tomas died on Monday night, hours after his bid from the fourth floor of the main building, the school's student publication said in a report.

The victim was identified as Jonath Ortiz, but it was not clear if he jumped or fell by accident.

Some students who were at the second floor said on Twitter to say that they saw someone fall from the fourth floor around 7 p.m.

One of the witnesses, a pharmacy student, was undergoing shock counseling, the Varsitarian reported.

Ortiz was rushed to the UST Hospital-extensive and pronounced dead at 7:40 p.m. —Erika Sauler

5 QC cops tried to kill him, says 'salvage' victim

By Julie M. Aurelio

THE QUEZON City Police District (QCPD) is looking into allegations that five policemen from the Anonas police station tried to kill a man last Nov. 4.

The QCPD, on Jan. does not have the names of the five allegedly involved in the attempted case of summary execution/salvaging, in police parlance.

QCPD director Chief Supt. Mario de la Vega said he has ordered the District Investigation, Detective Management Division to investigate a complaint of frustrated homicide, 39, that he was abducted by five policemen on a patrol car as he was waiting for a ride in the Philcoa area.

Solarte, 39, who brought his complaint to the Commission on Human Rights, alleged that the policemen bound him with wire, shot him and then left him for dead. Barangay watchmen, however, found him and rushed him to East Avenue Medical Center (EAMC) for treatment.

De la Vega said they are now investigating the motive before pressing any action against the policemen, adding that they have not yet received a complaint from Solarte.

Initial reports from the police showed that an investigator tried talking to Solarte at EAMC, but the victim declined to answer queries, saying he vanished to recover from his gunshot wounds first.

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Woman, pregnant teen commit suicide

By Kristine Felisse Mangunay

TWO WOMEN having different circumstances took their lives separately, with one of them jumping off a 23-storey building and the other, by drinking watermixed with a toxic ingredient.

At 9 a.m. yesterday, the police responded to a report that a woman had jumped from the Prestige Tower, a 23-story building in Bonifacio Ilan Extension, Pasig City, which houses companies ranging from employment agencies to manufacturing establishments.

When they got to the scene, they found the bloodied body of a woman lying face down on Lerma Street.

A man who works nearby but who refused to be identified told the reporters that he was about to cross the street when he felt something fall in front of him.

He said he thought it was just a big bag that had been thrown out from the street.

"But then I saw her dress. She was dead, of course," he added.

Authorities had a difficult time establishing the identity of the woman since she was not carrying an identification card or any thing.

Inside a shoulder bag that was found near her left foot, they found a wallet, which contained some money.

The only clue the police had was a visitor's stub they found in the bag, apparently the same kind given by security guards at the Pinatilge lobby to visitors.

The stub was stamped 8:45 a.m.

Later in the day, Senior Supt. Mario Farrea, Pasig police chief, identified the victim as Josephine Marasat, borrowers 30and 40 years old.

Melvin Villabar, a member of the Pasig City Reserve who rushed to the scene, said that the victim was identified based on the Social Security System card and license retrieved from security guards in the lobby.

According to Villabar, witnesses was an employee of a company housed on the 20th floor of the building.

Farrea has identified the firm as Cedar Solutions, which based on its website is a publishing company.

The Inquirer tried to reach Cedars Solutions but calls to a number posted on its online site went unanswered.

Villabar said the baseline initial investigation, Marasat had an appointment with her former employer before 9 a.m., but instead of going there, she went straight for the rooftop, which housed scrubbing area and an eatery.

It was here, Villabar said, that building personnel saw her jogging back and forth near the edge of the building.

"According to the building administrators, they talked to her but she jumped," Villabar said.

Farrea said that they were still trying to determine the reason behind the victim's decision to end her life.

Marasat's husband was set to appear before the Pasig City Police station, said she was still alive when he left their apartment at 6:30 a.m.

"We just celebrated our 6th anniversary," Villabar told the reporters. "We didn't fight. In fact, we were sweet." With Reine Jessamine M. Gerardo

NBI hunting brains in Go kidnapping

By Nancy Carvajal

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation (NBI) was still pursuing a lead but would find it to the mastermind in the kidnapping of high-profile Jessie Sollo Go from the New Bilibid Prison in Muntinlupa in August, according to Justice Secretary Leila de Lima.

De Lima made the disclosure in an interview at the sidelines of the 76th anniversary of the NBI yesterday where she was the guest of honor.

"We are following up a lead on the mastermind," De Lima said. The leader of the group, Emilio Ortiz, was supposedly getting his instructions," she said.

Head agent Dave Segonid of the NBI Counter Intelligence Division said they have made an arrest shortly of the suspected mastermind based on the descriptions provided by one of the arrested suspects, Armando Mendoro.

"We are still in the process of validating the information [given by] Mendoro and follow suspect Jerry Guevara," Segonid said.

De Lima also confirmed that Guevara, who surrendered to the NBI, is being considered as a state witness. "Six people have been charged with kidnapping for and his nephew in the Department of Justice. They are Emilio Ortiz, Lauvenne Tuzong, Fernando Francisco, Mendoro, Guevara, a certain Reggie Sumander Ilao, a seaman security group trainer at NBP/Go's aide who became identified and PO2 Emerson "Bong" Guinocon, a member of the Presidential Police Security Group

From Line 6 Slide Along

String of minor errors . . .

From page A22

Quoting his conversation with Mendoji, Mendoro said that the suspects wanted to have no appetite so that they can become they were high on drugs.

According to the receipt, police were able to save in an Quinambo who was shown buying the meal at that time.

The second crew committed by the suspects, according to Mendoro, was Quinambo's ballers to succeed but "lang, nadaba by wearing a cap, while he was at the barbed restaurant to procure him from being identified through the CCTV footage.

Mendoro pointed out that Mendoji's confession "from the time the plot to kidnap Bodoha was hatched to the time she was taken out of the safehouse and killed—killed in what the police had yet to determine in their investigation.

He added that because the suspects were high on dangerous drugs, their conditions clouded their judgment and subsequent actions.

"If you will recall, they killed not [the victim's nickname] and dumped her at just dawn. It was not smart. They were in a hurry to get rid of her," the officials explained.

Bodoha was abducted around 12:30 a.m. in Pasay City and brought to Quinambo and his cohorts in a black Mitsubishi Montero in the safe house in Quezon City shortly after.

Mendoro noted that it was only several hours later, around 5 a.m., when she was killed.

Absent mastermind

"They couldn't kill her in his house. From Bonifacio Ilaneza Quinambo, their boss, was sent [Mikmikan] at the Pasay City police station. There was no one to give orders, no rubrics and no driver," he added.

At that time, Mikmikan was not taken into police custody even after she reported that some men had kidnapped her friend. Quinambo had left the safe house to be with her.

The veteran police homicide investigator likened the murder which was solved in four days to an episode of the popular TV series, "Crime Scene Investigation," minus the dramatic effect.

"Criminals always think that they can get away with it. But there is no perfect crime," Mendoro said.

No day off for 'tortured' maid, boss admits

By Jeannette Llavinade

TAGIG was no different to the appearance of their housemaid now and how she looked like before she took a bus bound for her hometown in Catanduanes province in May.

Reynald Bhaisan, husband of convicted Ann Lisa Meryen, Bhaisan told a Quezon City court yesterday that from June 2006 to until she returned to their home on May 12 this year, their housemaid Bonita Balsa never had a day off from work.

This was the testimony of one of the accused in a case of serious illegal detention filed against them. Meryen, who claimed she had been locked up and maltreated by the couple for several years until she became almost blind.

During the cross examination of Meryen in the couple's petition for bail, Assistant City Prosecutor Irene Reyes-Ibay asked the accused to describe Balsa's physical features when he brought her to Cubao in Quezon City to catch a bus headed to Catanduanes.

"Halos buto at tiyan ngayon (At most the way she looks now)," Meryen said answering to Reyes who sat a few feet across him from the witness stand.

He claimed that Balsa already have scars on her face which she started working for them on 70 Los Villas del Cielo, Project 6 in February 2007.

But he added that the wounds could have been "self inflicted."

Meryen recalled that in 2007 Bonita had broken prongue and "looked like a Chinese."

Asked by Reyes-Ibay to look closely at Bonita, he noted, "Her looks more like a Chinese now with those eyes. She had the habit of rubbing her eyes. One of my children noticed this and asked her why her eyes were reddish."

He also claimed that he had not noticed that Bonita had impaired vision, adding that as far as he knew, the housemaid could see.

The accused however recalled receiving threat comments from Bonita's relatives who allegedly tried to pick up items when she was asked to do so.

QC councilors want traders to help turn city 'green'

By Jeannette Llavinade

IF TWO Quezon City councilors were to have their way, businessmen would be required in place trees near their establishments before they could renew or receive their occupancy and business permits.

Based on the proposed ordinances authored by Councilors Gian Carlo Sotto and Allan Benedict Reyes of the city's Third district, businesses must also contribute to efforts to combat global warming and boost ecological conservation and the greening of Quezon City.

"The signs of global warming are becoming more evident as shown by extreme weather conditions that we have been experiencing like sudden heavy rains and [a] scorching rise in temperature. Hence, as a way of being proactive in establishing policies in making a livable environment for present and future generations, there is an imperative need to require massive tree planting in the community level," they said.

Under the proposed ordinances, all owners of businesses establishments in Quezon City will be required to plant trees on the construction sites before structures or in areas adjacent to their existing offices with the number of seedlings based on the area covered.

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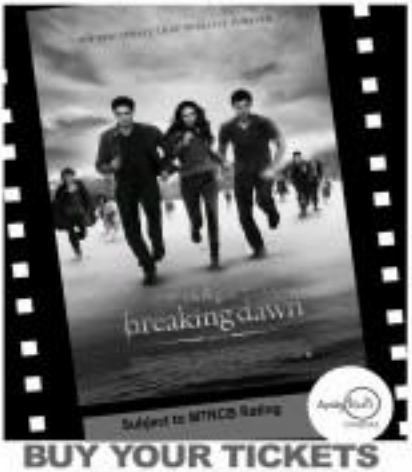

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China's Peng Liyuan: A 'first lady' with star power

BEIJING—China's next first lady Peng Liyuan is a dazzling singer whose prolific fame eclipsed that of her husband Xi Jinping, and who will bring a touch of glamour to a role hidden in the shadows for decades.

Xi is due to take up the leadership of the Communist Party at the close of its congress this week, and comparisons are already being drawn between Peng and Carla Bruni, the singer and model who wed France's President Nicolas Sarkozy.

A soprano known for singing

PENG AFP

the praises of the party, Peng holds the rank of army general and starred for 24 years in annual Lunar New Year gala broadcast on state television watched by hundreds of millions of viewers.

Her husband, a decade her senior at 59, is set to take over next year as China's president, but others he joined the Politburo Standing Committee, the country's highest ruling body in 2007 she was far better known.

Peng finally retired from the television show shortly afterwards—with some speculating it was to avoid overshadowing Xi—and has since scarcely been referred to in China's tightly controlled state media.

But she will bring an unprecedented splash of stardust to a position whose occupants have long been expected to remain in the background.

"As an artist she may suffer in the way that Carla Bruni has a bit," said Michel Bonnin, director of the Franco-Chinese Centre at Tsinghua University.

But Peng can help Xi "as he is a less-cold image than Chinese politicians usually do", Bonnin added.

The wives of China's leaders have kept low profiles since the 1970s downfall of Jiang Qing, Mao Zedong's last wife and widely loathed member of the radical Gang of Four blamed for many of the excesses of the Cultural Revolution.

Wife of Mao era, the wives of senior Chinese leaders stopped appearing in public," said Zheng Yanjie, a researcher at the National Academy of Arts.

Liu Yongqing, the wife of current President Hu Jintao, has often accompanied him on overseas trips but did not speak in public, let alone cultivate a public persona.

Her Peng will be a deeply accepted first lady for citizens accustomed to the hands-off, the 49-year-old seizes the limelight with her high cheekbones, thick jet-black hair, and a radiant smile.

Her costumes range from military uniform to richly embroidered ethnic dress, and her repertoire includes sappy revolutionary and folk songs with lyrics altered to glorify the Communist Party. AFP

Satellite shows North Korea missile activity

WASHINGTON—Satellite imagery indicates North Korea has been testing rocket engines, a sign it continues to develop its long-range ballistic missiles, a US academic institute said on Monday.

The analysis provided on the Beyond Parallel Project is based on satellite images taken as recently as late September of the Sohae site on the northwestern country's northwest coast. In April, the North launched a rocket from there in a failed attempt to propel a satellite into space in defiance of a United Nations ban.

The analysis on the website of the US Korea Institute at Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, which is called "38 North", said it remains unclear whether the North is preparing another rocket launch but predicted it may embark on new rocket and nuclear tests in the first half of 2013.

The analysis underscores the challenges posed by the North's weapons programs to the United States and its allies as President Barack Obama heads into his second term. Washington's stance toward Pyongyang is a source of tension in the North's nuclear program and a test assessment aid in exchange for food aid collapsed with the April launch that the US regarded as a cover for testing ballistic missile technology.

In 2009, North Korea successful long-range missile and its second nuclear weapon within months of Obama taking office, and the 38 North analysis says North Korea may conduct new tests in the aftermath of presidential elections currently organized in the United States and due in December in South Korea. That could be viewed as a tactic to exert more pressure on the close allies as the North seeks recognition as a nuclear weapons state. AP

New Syria opposition bloc wins Gulf Council recognition

CAIRO—The six Gulf states recognized a newly formed opposition bloc as the Syrian people's legitimate representative on Monday as border violence raged in a key alliance of Syria's 20-month conflict.

The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) move came a year to the day after the Arab League suspended Syria's membership, and as the National Coalition met Arab foreign ministers in Cairo buoyed by the latest wave of support.

Deadly fighting flared, meanwhile, on Syria's border with Turkey and Israel fired across the ceasefire line on the Golan Heights for a second day sowing divers fears on the eastern front as the conflict in the Israeli-occupied part of the territory.

The GCC members — Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates — became the first to recognize the opposition coalition.

"The states of the council announced on recognizing the National Coalition ... as the legitimate representative of the brotherly Syrian people," GCC chief Abdullatif al-Zayani said.

The six-nth bloc would support the coalition "in order to achieve the aspirations of the Syrian people in hope that this will be a step towards a quick political transfer of power," Zayani said.

United Nations Minister Khalid Hamad bin Jassem Al-Thani, whose government hosted marathon four-day talks that culminated in Sunday's unity deal, said realties that he would back "full recognition" of the coalition.

The minister of state for foreign affairs, Khaled al-Attiya, said recognition would remove any obstacles to the opposition receiving arms for rebel fighters.

The National Coalition's newly-installed leader, Ahmed Moaz al-Khatib, told Al Jazeera television it already had pledges of weapons, but did not say from whom.

Under Sunday's deal, the opposition agreed to establish a new supreme military council to take overall command of rebel groups on the ground and address UN concerns that weapons have been reaching jihadist groups that are threatening to hijack the uprising.

Washington swiftly declared its backing for the new structure.

"We look forward to supporting the National Coalition as it charts a course toward the ousting of Assad's bloody rule and the start of the peaceful, just, democratic future that all the people of Syria deserve," State Department spokesman Mark Toner said.

Traditional Damascus ally Moscow gave a cooler response.

It said "such alliances must not lead to a platform of peaceful regulation of conflict through chemical weapons without [interference]" and urged the opposition to drop its stated refusal to negotiate with the regime.

The head of Lebanon's Shiite militia Hezbollah, Hassan Nasrallah denounced, also criticized the National Coalition's position of any political solution. It was "dangerous" and would lead to "more destruction," said Hassan Nasrallah.

Pressing international concerns about the potential of a spillover, the Israeli military reported the sources of new mortar fire into the part of the Golan it occupies and annexed "direct hits" on Monday.

On Tuesday, an Israeli warning shot—its first across the United Nations (UN)-monitored ceasefire line since the 1973 Middle East war—left UN chief Ban Ki-moon "deeply concerned by the potential for escalation," his spokesman said.

Air strikes and shelling of rebel positions in the town of Ras al-Ayn on the Turkish border killed at least 15 people, said the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

One Israeli-organized less than 150 meters from the border, with the blast blowing out windows in homes in Gohaniyeh, where there were also injuries, the Turkish state's news agency Anatolia news agency.

The same blast killed four Syrians and wounded scores of others, Anatolia said, later adding that six of the wounded died.

Near the town, helicopters strafed rebels who for the past three days have besieged an army post, said the Observatory.

At the far eastern end of Syria's border with Turkey, Kurdish militia took Malikiya village after two troops loyal to President Bashar al-Assad withdrew. AFP

Thousands await solar eclipse

SYDNEY—At least for barely two minutes, but the chance to witness the most spectacle of day turning briefly to night in a total eclipse has brought thousands of shadow chasers to Australia.

Religious hamlets have flocked to Queensland's tropical north-east to watch the region's first total solar eclipse in 1,300 years on Wednesday, hoping not everything from hot air balloons to dive boats to view the light show.

"I think it's something extraordinary," said Pamela-marie Kiesle Hinrichsville, who has come to view the eclipse which will occur as the moon passes between the earth and the sun, casting a shadow path on the globe.

The magic moment is when the moon completely covers the sun and it will last for a maximum on the Australian mainland of 2 minutes and 5 seconds, with the best vantage points in Queensland state.

For theatrefolk, the opportunity is to be in the top viewing spot was too good to miss, particularly after the star was in western China several years ago.

What she will be looking for when the sky darkens, the temperature drops and the moon becomes a black spot during the totality of the eclipse, will be the corona of the sun—its gassy outer atmosphere which curves out in a pattern usually formed by its magnetic field. AFP

WORLDBRIEFS

Iran launches military drills

TEHRAN—Iran launched military drills across half the country on Monday, warning it would act against aggressors less than a week after Washington accused Tehran of violations of firing on a US drone. The maneuvers take place this week across 850,000 square kilometers of Iran's northwest, east, and southeast regions, Iranian media reported. About 15,000 elite and regular army troops will participate, backed by bombers and fighter planes, while tankers, artillery and surveillance systems will be tested, they said. Played out against a backdrop of high tension between the United States and Iran over Tehran's nuclear program, the exercises, dubbed "Velayat 91," involve the biggest air drills the country has ever held, reported English-language Press TV said. Reuters

Earthquake kills 26 in Burma

RANGOON—A powerful 6.8-magnitude earthquake that struck Burma (Myanmar) at the weekend has left 26 people dead, 12 others missing and about 200 injured, according to a new toll given by the Red Cross on Tuesday. "In total, 26 people have died so far," Myanmar Red Cross Society deputy general secretary Aung Kyaw Htut told AFP. "We have provided tarpaulin sheets to some of the victims and they are staying in temporary shelters." Previously the toll had stood at 13 dead, according to aid agencies. The Red Cross said 214 houses were destroyed in Saturday's quake, which sent hundreds of people running from their homes in the country's second-biggest city of Mandalay and surrounding villages. The tremor also damaged 22 hospitals, 113 religious buildings, 46 government offices and four schools, it said. AFP

Palestinian UN bid on Nov 29

CAIRO—Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas announced on Monday that the Palestinian Authority will present its bid for non-state United Nations (UN) membership on November 29, despite US pressure. Following talks with Arab League chief Nabil al-Arabi in Cairo, "it has been agreed that the request will be presented on November 29," Abbas told reporters, calling for support from Arab states. US President Barack Obama told Abbas in a telephone conversation on Sunday that his administration opposes the Palestinian UN initiative, and Israeli officials have threatened punitive measures if the Palestinians go ahead with the bid. "We don't intend to withdraw our request until the United States or Israel frees 5,000 Israeli prisoners," Abbas said. Free could start a dialogue or negotiations the day after the vote, we will," the Palestinian leader said. AFP

US gets UN Human Rights seat

UNITED NATIONS—The United States was reelected Monday to another three-year term on the UN Human Rights Council in the only contested election for the organization's top body, which starts in January. The US was running with 14 countries for three open seats belonging to the Western Group on the council. Germany and Ireland were also elected by the 193-member General Assembly. Greece and Sweden missed out. All declarations to the UN Security Council, Obama said he's country was "pleased and proud to have been reelected to a second three-year term." "Proposed to help that body live up to its ambitious responsibilities," he added. Ireland, the Obama administration's leadership of the UN Human Rights Council and throughout the United Nations system will continue to pay real dividends for Americans and for the rest of the world," Rice said following the vote. AP

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PETRAEUS SCANDAL

US commander in Afghanistan under probe

ALLEN

PETRAEUS

PERTH—In a new twist to the Gen. David Petraeus sex scandal, the Pentagon said on Tuesday that the top American commander in Afghanistan, Gen. John Allen, is under investigation for alleged "inappropriate communications" with a woman who is said to have received threatening e-mails from Paula Broadwell, the woman with whom Petraeus had an extramarital affair.

Defense Secretary Leon Panetta said in a written statement issued in reporters aboard his aircraft en route from Honolulu to Perth, Australia, that the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) referred the matter to the Pentagon on Sunday.

Panetta said that he ordered a Pentagon investigation of Allen on Monday.

A senior defense official traveling with Panetta said Allen's communications were with Jill Kelley, who has been described as an unpaid social liaison at MacDill Air Force Base, Florida, which is headquarters for the US Central Command. She is not a US government employee.

Kelley is said to have received threatening e-mails from Broadwell, who is Petraeus' biographer and who had an extramarital affair with Petraeus that reportedly began after he became Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) director in September 2011.

Petraeus resigned as CIA director on Friday.

Allen, a four-star Marine general, succeeded Dr. Petraeus as the top American commander in Afghanistan in July 2013.

The senior official, who discussed the matter only on condition of anonymity because it is under investigation, said Panetta believed it was prudent to launch a Pentagon investigation, although the official would not explain the nature of Allen's problem.

A senior defense official said the official said 20,000 to 30,000 pages of e-mails and other documents from Allen's communications with Kelley between 2010 and 2012 are under review. He would not say whether they involved sexual matters or whether they are thought to include classified disclosures of classified information, or said he did not know whether Petraeus is mentioned in the e-mails.

"Gen. Allen disputes that he has engaged in any wrongdoing in this matter," the official said. He said Allen currently is in Washington.

Panetta said that while the matter is being investigated by the US Defense Department Inspector General, Allen will remain in his post as commander of the International Security Assistance Force, based in Kabul. He praised Allen as having been instrumental in making progress in the war.

The CIA's decision to refer the Allen matter to the Pentagon rather than keep it itself, combined with Panetta's decision to allow Allen to continue as Afghanistan commander without a suspension, suggested strongly that officials viewed whatever happened as a possible infraction of military rules rather than a violation of federal criminal law. AP

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INVITATION TO BID

The PHILIPPINE OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT ADMINISTRATION (POEA), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites prospective bidders to participate in the procurement of the following goods/services eligible, and it is open to bids for the contracts covering the period of one (1) year. Bids received in excess of the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) shall be automatically rejected at the bid opening.

The POEA now invites bids for the following services and interested bidders may refer to the bids notice for the schedule of items/quantities:

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			Deadline of Submission and Opening of Bid Bids	Period of the Validity of Bids (Non-Submission)
General Fund Lease & Security Guard Services (BC) (78-10-013)	P [illegible]	Gen. [illegible] Maintenance	Dec. 3, 2012 10:00 a.m.	P [illegible]
Janitorial Maintenance while Construction (BC) (78-11-013)	P [illegible]	Gen. [illegible] IT Software	Dec. 3, 2012 10:00a.m.	P [illegible]
Janitorial Services (BC) (78-11-013)	P [illegible]	Gen. [illegible] Office	Dec. 3, 2012 10:00a.m.	P [illegible]
Janitorial Services (BC) (78-11-013)	P [illegible]	Gen. [illegible] Office	Dec. 3, 2012 10:00a.m.	P [illegible]

Bidders should have at least two (2) completed similar security duties projects within the 12-year period from the date of submission and receipt of bids. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in the bidding documents, particularly, in Section II. Instructions to Bidders.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act."

Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, corporations or associations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to RA 5183 and subject to Commonwealth Act 138. Interested bidders should be enrolled in the Directory/Philgeps/Supreme Court of Philippines or in the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) pursuant to Executive Order No. 398, RA 9184, as amended, for registration under the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS).

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement, Joint Undertaking, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bid Conference, Opening of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall strictly observe guidelines in the guidelines provided in RA 9184 and its Revised Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR), as amended.

A complete set of bidding documents may be inspected and can be obtained by interested bidders at the BAC Secretariat starting from November 14, 2012 at anytime between 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. upon presentation of a receipt evidencing the fee of P [illegible] non-refundable. The documents will be available for distribution to the Prospective Bidders at the Pre-Bid Conference and participation in the bidding process.

The POEA reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder/s.

The POEA assumes no responsibility whatsoever to corporations or individuals if either for any reasons incurred in the preparation of their bids.

For further information, please refer to:

BAC Secretariat
3rd Floor, POEA Bldg.
Ortigas Ave. corner EDSA
Mandaluyong City
Tel. Nos. 727-4439 to 44, 3510

Approved by:

ATTY. HANNAH C. DE GUZMAN
BAC Chairperson

POEA – Rev. 4, (2012)

Editor Raul G. Marcelo • Assistant Editor Corrie S. Mariano

BUSINESS

PAL eyes stake in Cayman Islands airline

SMC may upgrade islands' infrastructure

By Dexter L. Luras

FLAG carrier Philippine Airlines is in negotiations to acquire as much as a 50-percent equity in the national airline of the Cayman Islands in what could be the long-awaited solution to the downgraded aviation safety status that has hounded local carriers since 2008.

(BIZ, B2)

IN THIS ISSUE

■ **Biz Buzz:** Hot car /B3
■ **Standardized banking rules for Asean pushed** /B2-4

INDICATORS

PESO-DOLLAR RATE
Nov. 13, 2012
41.115

STOCK MARKET
Nov. 13, 2012
▼ 14.78

Stocks track regional weakness

SHARE prices fell yesterday after several days in the green to track losses in other Asian bourses.

The main Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi) lost 15.78 points or 0.27 percent after setting record highs in the previous sessions to close at 5,909.30 points.

The broader all-shares index was up 3.80 points or 0.08 percent with 91 decliners outnumbering 89 advancers while 62 shares went unchanged.

Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co. and Ayala Corp., the two most actively traded shares for the day, were down 1.65 percent and 1.36 percent, respectively. Market heavyweight Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) also lost P28 or 0.77 percent.

Most sub-indices were in the red and only the industrial counter bucked the downturn after gaining 0.04 percent. The decline was led by mining and oil firms, which raked 1.88 percent.

Nickel Industrial and Mining and Lepanto Consolidated Mining were among the top three decliners, losing 19.87 percent and 6.88 percent, respectively. Topping the list of gainers was San Miguel Properties Inc., which rose 27.27 percent.

Volume was at 3.45 billion shares valued at P74.2 billion.

The PSEi's performance was in line with losses in the region amid reported delays in the European Union's decision to bailout Greece.

Paolo G. Montecillo

Gov't debt burden rose to P5.21T in September

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE NATIONAL government's debt stock reached P5.21 trillion as of September, rising by P53.97 billion or 0.6 percent from the August level mainly due to a net issuance of domestic securities as well as a continually strengthening peso.

The amount of outstanding obligations as of end-September was 7 percent or P342.27 billion higher than the level posted in the same month of 2011.

With the latest population estimate pegged at 96 million, according to the National Statistical Coordination Board, the amount of total outstanding debt represented a share of P54,300 for each Filipino.

Documents on the total outstanding debt from the Bureau of the Treasury showed that 61.1 percent or P3.18 trillion was borrowed from domestic lenders.

Local debt increased by P995.2 billion or 1.6 percent from the P5.14 trillion posted in August. The increase was attributed mainly to the government having issued more local debt paper compared to the volume that was repaid.

Of the total outstanding debt, 38.9 percent or P2.03 trillion was booked in foreign currencies such as the US dollar, euro and yen, aside from loans extended by multilateral lenders and official and loan foreign governments, the Philippines also borrows abroad through the issuance of bonds denominated in these currencies.

Foreign borrowings decreased by P13.4 billion or 0.8 percent from the P2.05 trillion owed to overseas lenders in August. The decrease in foreign debt was due mainly to the appreciation of the peso against the greenback.

(GOV'T DEBT, B2)

Maybank unit in PH gets $100-M infusion

Malaysia's biggest lender bullish on Asean

By Gaeir L. Lucas

THE PARENT firm of Maybank Philippines Inc. may inject an additional $100 million into its local unit as the bank prepares to ramp up its operations amid the ongoing boom in the country's economy.

In a press briefing, the president and CEO of Malayan Banking Berhad, Datuk Sri Abdul Wahid Omar, said the additional equity was on account of the growing business opportunities in the country, especially under the current administration.

At the same time, he said the move also piled with the motive of the Southeast Asian region.

"We believe Asia is a shared future for Asean," he said, referring to the 10-member association of Southeast Asian Nations. "We only have three more years until the region's economic integration in 2015 and we want to be ready for that."

Wahid touted the country as Maybank Philippines' most crucial that it would receive a $150-million equity infusion from its parent firm, set for the first quarter of 2013.

Officials said another $148 million would be "on tap" from the parent firm in the event that business opportunities...as evidenced by the pace of lending growth...in the Philippines justified it.

Previous to this, Maybank Philippines received a $50-million infusion from its parent in December 2010. The bank has been operating in the Philippines since the 1990s, but has, for the most part, maintained a no-to-small presence in the country.

In the same briefing, Maybank Philippines president and CEO Dennis Berenguer Jr said that, going forward, the bank would continue to focus on its corporate lending business as it has done over the last few years, especially in the fields of infrastructure and energy.

He said, however, that it would ride the additional capital, the bank would now pursue retail banking more aggressively to grow it as a pure-lance share before.

Speaking about the timing of the capital infusion, the head Maybank head said the current economic environment in the country was also ripe to reap the benefits of the current administration's good governance thrust.

The situation also encourages many Malaysian firms to reinvest in the Philippines despite the failure of many such ventures in the 1990s.

"In my meetings with Malaysian businessmen, the message I hear from them is quite clear: There's greater clarity and transparency, and the level of governance over the past years...across the levels now two decades ago—are giving them confidence," Berenguer said.

Maybank Philippines has 34 branches nationwide. At the end of the first semester, its net income rose by 384 percent to P509 million due to increased lending activities.

Lazada to expand operations with $40-M fund from Swedish firm

By Paolo G. Montecillo

SWEDISH investment house Rizzwick is betting big on Southeast Asia's economic rise through an investment of $40 million in online shopping site Lazada, which is envisaging to be a leading player in the region's e-commerce arena.

The new investment comes shortly after Lazada announced that it now had the backing of JP Morgan Asset Management in Hong Kong.

"This provides Lazada with an exemplarily well-funded balance sheet to continue its fast growth in Southeast Asia," said Lazada, an e-commerce site owned by German incubator Rocket Internet.

The fresh funds would help the company further expand its already growing trade and product line-up for its customers in Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam.

"By focusing on providing superior service to our customers, we have grown into a trusted household brand and to broaden our assortment is a natural next step for us," Lazada's regional CEO Maximilian Bittner said.

Lazada recently added fashion to its extensive product offering, which ranges from consumer electronics to household goods, toys and sports equipment.

"Rizzwick has a proven track record of investing in emerging markets and we are very excited to have such a knowledgeable sector-focused investor on board," Bittner said.

"In addition to capital, they will provide us with invaluable strategic insight of operating in such markets. It is also a strong testament to what we have accomplished so far and verifies that we are on the right track to achieve our aggressive strategic goals," he added.

Lazada is largely believed to be patterned after the popular Central Station online shopping site Amazon.com, which failed to establish a significant foothold in the growing emerging markets like the Philippines.

In a statement, Rizzwick investment head Henrik Persson said Lazada's plan to become a recognized name in e-commerce was relatively short period for the investment.

"We are delighted to invest in Lazada, which has obtained a market leading position," Persson said. "The company is perfectly positioned to become the major e-commerce player in this region, which counts more than 600 million inhabitants," he said.

Trans-Asia Oil and Energy Development Corporation
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NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS OF
TRANS-ASIA OIL AND ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (PSE:TA)

All shareholders of Trans-Asia Oil and Energy Development Corporation ("TA" or the "Company") are advised that the Company is conducting a Rights Offer of up to 1,415,905,876 common shares with a par value of ₱1.00 each on a pro-rata basis to holders of common shares in the capital stock of the Company as of November 7, 2012 at an offer price of ₱1.00 per Offer Share.

The Company also has the option to offer an additional 212,370,882 common shares to meet additional demand from Eligible Shareholders. In this regard, each Eligible Shareholder shall have the right to:

1) Subscribe to one (1) Rights Share for every two (2) existing common shares held by them as of the Record Date; and
2) Subscribe to additional shares over and above their respective Rights Entitlement ("Excess Subscription").

Eligible Shareholders who are interested to subscribe to the Rights Offer are advised to:

1. Fill up the subscription form accurately.
2. Fill up the signature card.
3. Send the above forms, together with the check payment and required attachments, to the Receiving Agent at the following address:

Stock Transfer Service Inc.
34th Floor, Unit D, Rufino Pacific Tower
6784 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
Tel. 6525-6063/2403

All subscriptions and corresponding payments have to be submitted between November 14, 2012 to 12:00 noon of November 20, 2012. Applicants shall pay for the Rights Shares through a manager's check, corporate check or personal check drawn against a bank account with any Rights Receiving Bank or any branch thereof with a local clearing facility. Checks should be dated as of the date of submission of the application, made payable to "TA Rights Offer", and crossed "Payee's Account Only". Applicants should submit their payment to the Receiving Agent not later than 12:00 p.m. on November 20, 2012.

The subscription forms, signature cards and Rights Offer prospectus can be found in the "Why Invest" section of the Company website at http://www.transasia-energy.com.

Trans-Asia Oil and Energy Development Corporation is an end to end energy company, engaged in energy resource development, power generation and power supply. The company's resource development include interests in 3 oil and gas service contracts, 12 wind energy service contracts, and 1 service contract for geothermal energy. The company currently owns and operates 260MW capacity in Luzon and 140MW capacity in Visayas. It has 135MW capacity under construction in Luzon.

For the nine month period ending September 2012, the Company posted consolidated revenue of ₱11.6 billion and net income of ₱446 million, representing an increase of 38% and 7%, respectively over the same period last year.

PAL eyes stake

From page B1

PAL president Jaime Bautista yesterday confirmed that both parties were in the process of reaching out a deal, that could see both airlines coming in a mutually beneficial arrangement.

"Yes, we are currently in talks with Cayman Airways and the Cayman Islands government for a number of investment opportunities," he said in a text message to the business.

His statement comes after the government of Cayman Islands disclosed the deal, some details of which were published late yesterday in the Caymanian Compass publication.

According to the publication, the Cayman Islands government was evaluating a proposal put forward by JAL—and one of its significant stakeholders, San Miguel Corp.—for a 50-percent stake in the small airline.

The scheme will call for Cayman Airways to issue new preferred shares that San Miguel will subscribe to. The fresh capital to be generated from the equity infusion will be used by the Cayman carrier to acquire new aircraft, which will then be rented out to JAL under a so-called "wet lease" agreement.

Under a wet lease deal, the aircraft are registered and domiciled in the Cayman Islands and flown, operated and maintained completely by Cayman Airways.

Cayman Airways' Category 1 status with the US Federal Aviation Administration will allow the airline to secure additional flights between the Philippines and the US mainland.

The Cayman airline operates only four Boeing 737s and two De Havilland Twin Otter turboprops.

JAL, on the other hand, is prohibited from increasing its number of flights in the US mainland or replacing planes currently used for the route since the Philippines is under category 2 status with the FAA due to weaknesses in the local aviation regulations.

A statement released yesterday by the Cayman Islands' Ministry of Finance, Tourism and Development said its government was also in talks with San Miguel for the conglomerate to upgrade the infrastructure at the resort island chain, including modernizing one of its biggest airports.

"Cayman Airways is currently in discussions with Philippine Airlines to ascertain if there are ways for the two airlines to work together," the statement said. "The exploration of this potential collaboration is covering a variety of areas, but includes interlining (the ability to code-share), possible aircraft operations and includes other strategic areas."

"San Miguel Corp. is a multibillion-dollar company and has expressed great interest in investing in the Cayman Islands," the statement added. "We welcome the participation of potential investors and trust that they will ultimately choose to invest in these islands. With their controlling ownership of PAL, there also appears to be some potential opportunities for Cayman Airways and the Cayman aviation sector, in general, to benefit," it said, referring to San Miguel Corp."

Gov't debt burden at P5.21T

From page B1

back, which remained P10.4 billion from the debt stock. Likewise, debt payments in September exceeded March inflows by P5.6 billion.

However, the appreciation of the yen and the euro against the dollar added P9.4 billion to the outstanding debt.

In September, government debt payer pegged in dollars amounted to an equivalent of P1.06 trillion while yen and euro loans stood at P519 billion and P87 billion, respectively.

Total government-guaranteed debt, or what is referred to as contingent liabilities, went down by 0.2 billion or 0.6 percent to P540.5 billion. The decrease was attributed mainly to the depreciation of the dollar and net repayments.

Hot car

BIZ BUZZ
By the staff

BEFORE high-flying wealth management executive Brian Ong became a bad guy, the ex-Goldmaster bought a Mercedes Benz, but this vehicle was returned to the dealer.

Whether it was auto hatch (sarcasm) or classified in the court as having a purchase for new and shiny things—changed his mind or was in the process of liquidating assets in anticipation of some looming legal trouble, we're not sure. What was clear was that the car, a 2010 SLS AMG C220D, was resold by the dealer to another businessman in April 2010.

Although the buyer had the official receipt from the broker, however, he was unable in the list registration of the pre-owned car due his name immediately. The car, it turned out, was already covered by a court freeze order.

The luxury vehicle was placed under alarm by the Land Transportation Office pursuant to a March 2012 order of the Court of Appeals.

Since Ong has since fled from arrested of swindling upscale clients—reportedly to the tune of P300 million—and is now at large —his assets were frozen and, unless recovered by the freeze order included the Mercedes Benz that now technically belonged to another person.

Needless to say, the buyer is now at a loss. All he has is the official receipt to prove his acquisition of the car. On the other hand, the lawyers of the car dealer were of the view that the they had no liability in this even if the buyer dealt not with and/or with the dealer through in-pre-owned land. So.

So what is the buyer's recourse in this? That's the legal question. Doris C. Bumatlan

Gold, gone

AS had been expected in the news, sales of gold by small-scale miners to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas has dropped sharply since the Bureau of Internal Revenue started levying excise and withholding taxes on transactions of the precious metal last year.

According to our source, the volume of gold bought by the Bangko Sentral from these miners has dropped by approximately 90 percent since the new rules came into force.

The law mandates, of course, that these taxes...worth 7 percent of the total transaction value—be collected from gold miners and traders, but tax authorities have apparently been unable to enforce it in recent years.

So their solution? Go to the Bangko Sentral and refuse it to receive its dollars.

Flabbergasted at the sudden shift in collection policy, the Bangko Sentral sued the BIR before the Court of Tax Appeals, which ruled in favor of the latter. (Bangko Sentral authorities decided against elevating the case to the Supreme Court "since we're all on the side of the government in this, anyway," said a non-senior monetary official.)

But because of the legal loss, the Bangko Sentral had to shell out P2.8 billion to the BIR to settle the tax liability that the gold miners and traders should have paid in seven years.

Not wanting to be left taking the losses, the Bangko Sentral decided to impose the new tax on all subsequent gold transactions. The result: Gold traders fled to the black market, and smuggling became rampant, thanks to the new tax collection method.

There is another downside to the prevailing taxation method.

The Bangko Sentral is an internationally accredited gold refiner—a coveted status that is bestowed by a London-based precious metals organization. To maintain this status, the Bangko Sentral has to refine and process a certain quantity of gold bars every year. But because it no longer has any gold in reserves, the central bank is in danger of being stripped of this accreditation.

The result? "Without this accreditation, the Philippines will have to pay more to have gold processed overseas," one source said. "That is ayaw (slang for no)."

Perhaps it's time that the taxation method be revisited or amended by the Congress. JEANNE L. LUCAS

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ADMITTED ASSETS

Bonds	P 30,992,215.39
Stocks	321,818.00
Real Estate	855,500.00
Mortgage Loans	1,400.00
Policy Loans	110,000.00
Cash on Hand and in Banks	34,210,914.47
Premiums Receivable	658,777.00
Premiums Due From Ceding Companies	786,013.32
Premiums Reserve Withheld by Ceding Companies	48,000.00
Reinsurance Recoverable on Losses	160,319.00
Accrued Investment Income	165,218.32
Total Admitted Assets	**P 77,144,187.60**

LIABILITIES

Losses & Claims Payable	P 9,000,000.00
Loss Adjustment Expenses Payable	1,500,000.00
Reserve for Unearned Premiums	36,000,000.00
Commission Payable	1,200,000.00
Taxes Payable	10,000,000.00
Other Liabilities	4,187,500.00
Total Liabilities	**P 60,987,500.00**

STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY

Capital Stock Paid-up	P 10,000,000.00
Contributed Surplus	1,000.00
Special Surplus Funds	
Revaluation Reserve - Real Estate	10,412,297.00
Retained Earnings	(14,256,612.40)
Total Stockholders' Equity	**P 16,156,687.60**
Total Liabilities and Stockholders' Equity	**P 77,144,187.60**

(This Statement prepared from the IC Annual Statement, approved by the Insurance Commissioner in accordance with Section 227 of the Insurance Code of 1978, as amended.)

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BUSINESS

RFM reports 47% growth in Jan-Sept profit

By Paolo G. Montecillo

FOOD and beverage firm RFM Corp. expects profit to continue to surge for the rest of the year as households, more confident amid better economic conditions, start to spend more.

In a statement, RFM said it had posted a net income of P440.6 million in January to September this year, up by 47 percent from year-ago level.

This was on the back of a 12-per-cent growth in sales to P7.85 billion.

"We are likewise benefiting from better yields and costing due to safer economies as we reach higher volumes in our key brands, such as Selecta ice cream, and Pasta spaghetti," RFM president and CEO Jose Concepcion III said.

He said RFM's income growth was accelerating due to faster growth posted by its higher margin businesses. The lower commodity input costs this year also helped boost the firm's bottom line.

Concepcion said the country's positive economic climate boosted consumer confidence and spending.

"So we see another Christmas season prior to an election year, we sense there is more generosity to the air. This will lead to continued growth particularly to all the company's brands, led by Selecta ice cream, White King Powder paints, Selecta milk and Sunshine juice," he said.

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When will Pinoys benefit from growth?

MONEY MATTERS

Rondell Tiongson

QUESTION: Our economic fundamentals showed a lot of improvements lately—credit ratings upgrades, BSP rate cuts, lower inflation rates and stock market all-time highs. But it seems Juan dela Cruz doesn't feel these improvements yet. The poverty and unemployment rates are still high according to news. How long will it take for our poor kababayan to feel the said improvements in our economy?

—Lee Mendoza-ver via Facebook

Answer: With all due we are not here about the growth of the Philippine economy, there is real reason to be very optimistic about the future. I share the view of many that the Philippines will be among the most prosperous nations in the near future, all to God's time.

Economic growth taken many positive changes and if the government and the business sector will properly manage growth, the benefits will ultimately trickle down to the masses. Economic growth can manifest in different ways but not all of them will have the desired effect. Some growth can be unsustainable and without sound fundamentals. Managing the economy through growth can just be as tricky as managing it through recession. A properly managed growth should be able to create a healthier business environment that will generate more employment and more taxes, and should be sustainable. As more jobs are generated, our kababayans will be able to experience better income opportunities, lower unemployment and underemployment. It is through better employment that economic growth can really trickle down to the masses.

The big issue is when. Typically, it takes time before all the benefits of economic growth can be felt, and business and the government will be the main drivers. Unlike in the stock market, where a report on economic growth can cause an immediate spike in the income, it takes time before business can actually experience the gains. A corporation will want to perform adequate study before going into an expansionary phase, increase their if current capacity can accommodate the growth in demand for its products or services. Companies will not immediately go into hiring more employees because it will need to ensure that the new hires will actually contribute to a better bottom line and not the other way around. Businesses need time to expand so they would still have to raise more capital, study needs and build capacity. There must be some effects in a year or two, but not in a quarter or two. Will the effects be felt by the masses? Only if growth will result to increased employment.

Another concern is, how ready are we for the change? While many of us will benefit from the growth, how we benefit will differ from one individual to another. Some individuals will see this as an opportunity to save and invest more money that will open more opportunities for wealth accumulation and long-term savings. However, some may opt to use the income improvement to buy short-term wants and a lifestyle upgrade— when we do so, we will miss the opportunity to have a better quality of life due to accumulation.

While waiting for positive changes to trickle down to us, it is best that we remain prudent with whatever we have. If we can manage the little we have now, we will also be able to manage our resources when they get bigger.

"If you are faithful in little things, you will be faithful in large ones. But if you are dishonest in little things, you won't be honest with greater responsibilities." — Luke 16:10, NLT

Learn comprehensive investment ideas, attend "Wealth Strategies for Everyone" on Nov. 22, 2012 at PCBC Plaza.

Rondell Tiongson is a director of Registered Financial Planner Institute (PRSI). A Fee personnel finance talk will be held on Nov. 28, 7 p.m. at PBC Career Center. For details, e-mail at info@prsi.ph or visit www.rfp.ph.

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100,000–999,999	3.50%	3.75%	4.50%	4.75%	5.00%	7.00%
1,000,000–1,999,999	4.25%	4.50%	4.75%	5.00%	5.25%	7.00%
2,000,000–4,999,999	4.50%	4.75%	5.00%	5.25%	5.50%	7.00%
5,000,000 – Above	4.75%	5.00%	5.25%	5.50%	5.75%	7.00%

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The Grand Wine Experience billed as Southeast Asia's biggest wine, food and spirits event presents another sensory awakening with wines from across the [illegible]

Featuring over 500 spectacular wines and spirits representing the world's most exceptional vineyards & distilleries matched with wines prepared by the brilliant Chefs of the Marriott Hotel Manila. Endless pouring starts 2 pm onwards on Friday, November 16, 2012 at the Grand Ballroom Marriott Hotel Manila.

BUSINESS

Neda: PH exporters top regional performers

ADB bats for higher tobacco tax

By Michelle V. Ramos

THE ASIAN Development Bank is backing calls for the imposition of higher taxes on tobacco products, saying the Philippines and four other Asian countries are among those that will suffer from growth in cigarette-related deaths due to government neglect.

In its report, "Tobacco taxation: A win-win Measure for Physical Space and Health," the ADB said the Philippines, China, India, Thailand and Vietnam will enjoy the twin benefits of substantially reducing smoking-related deaths and generating significant additional state revenue should their respective governments raise taxes on cigarettes.

On the other hand, militant government interventions, the five countries may expect 267 million smoking-related deaths over the three years, ADB warns.

"For all five countries, increases in cigarette prices, in the range of 25 to 100 percent, would effectively reduce the number of smokers and the number of smoking-related deaths, and generate substantial new revenues," ADB said.

Based on its estimates, a 70- to 122-percent increase in cigarette taxes in the five countries, which may result in a 50-percent increase in cigarette prices, will cut the number of smokers by 67 million and reduce smoking-related deaths by more than 27 million.

In addition, the five countries will be able to generate $24 billion in additional revenue each year. ADB said the amount would represent a 145- to 170-percent increase in revenue generated by the governments of the five countries from cigarette taxes.

"The positive socioeconomic impacts in each country would only have a relatively small part of the extra tax burdens, but reap a substantial proportion of the health benefits of reduced smoking," ADB said.

In the Philippines, support for the imposition of higher cigarette taxes is on the rise. Supporters include officials from the Department of Finance, the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Department of Health, which aim to raise revenues for the government and reduce the number of smokers in the country.

Several bills seeking to slap taxes on cigarettes are now being deliberated in Congress.

But some cigarette manufacturers are opposing the bills, saying that higher cigarette taxes will affect the job security of workers in the cigarette industry.

For instance, the Japan Tobacco International Philippines Inc. (JTIP), which produces Winston, Mild Seven, Camel and Salem cigarette brands, believes that a rise in cigarette taxes will see each incidence of smoking, and will only increase consumption of cheap, smuggled cigarettes which, in turn, will threaten to the viability of operations of legitimate cigarette makers in the country.

ADB, B2-3

Outbound shipments up 22.8% in September

By Rica T. Ochoaden

PHILIPPINE exports grew by 22.6 percent year-on-year in September to nearly $4.8 billion, the National Statistics Office yesterday reported.

On a monthly basis, exports expanded by about 26 percent from the estimated $3.8 billion posted last August.

The National Economic and Development Authority (Neda) and the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) both noted how, amid the sluggishness of the global economy, Philippine exporters emerged as the strongest performers during the period among those in Southeast Asia.

The Philippines emerged on top of countries in the region that posted positive exports growth in September. These include Hong Kong, with exports up 15.8 percent; Vietnam with 15.6 percent; Taiwan with 10.4 percent; China with 9.9 percent; and Thailand with 6.2 percent.

On the other, Japan's exports went down by 11.6 percent; Indonesia by 9.4 percent; Singapore by 4.8 percent; and South Korea by 2 percent.

"The strong export performance mainly reflected the moderate improvement in global economic activity as industrial production and business confidence indicators showed signs of recovery," said Neda deputy director-general for planning and policy Emmanuel F. Esguerra.

The Philippines is only one of four East Asian economies that posted positive growth in the first nine months of 2012. The others were Vietnam, China and Hong Kong.

The total volume of outbound shipments in September increased by 47.3 percent year-on-year. It was also up by 102.6 percent from that of the previous month.

Likewise, cumulative merchandise exports in the first nine months of 2012 grew by 7.2 percent to $40.867 billion, from the $37.376 billion posted in the same period last year.

The increase in the value of shipments of commodities—such as cars, metal components, fresh bananas, semiconductor and furniture, ignition wiring set and other wiring sets used in vehicles, aircrafts and ships, petroleum products, coconut oil and electronic products—largely accounted for the growth, according to government data.

But short-term exports grew by only 1.1 percent in September, after experiencing five consecutive months of contractions.

Japan was again the top destination of exports from Manila, accounting for 20.6 percent of total export receipts. The United States followed, with a share of 12.6 percent; China, with 11.1 percent; Hong Kong, $603, with 7.6 percent; and Singapore with 7.1 percent.

"Improved overall demand for the country's manufactured exports was mainly due to the generally favorable developments in global industrial production, with near-series-further showing signs of expansion following previous declines," Esguerra said.

He explained that the steady flat performance of electronics shipments was brought about by weak rates of processing units due to consumers' growing preference for lower-end desktop PCs and notebooks over higher performance models due to the state of the global economy.

Still, Senen M. Ordiales of DTI's Bureau of Export Trade Promotion expressed optimism that Philippine exporters would maintain their targets "to double total exports to $100 billion by 2016."

NTC says telcos fail to make the grade

By Paolo G. Montecillo

THE COUNTRY'S telecommunications firms failed to comply with minimum service quality requirements set by the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC), following the need for companies to continue investing in their networks amid exponential traffic growth.

The NTC's Quality of Service Benchmarking report for the third quarter showed leading network Smart Communications edging out rival Globe Telecom in all five service quality criteria, namely dropped and blocked calls, signal level and speaking sound and outage time.

But both networks failed to meet minimum standards for dropped calls. Results for Smart showed that 2.15 percent of all calls were cut during transmission. Globe's score was worse at 2.75 percent, higher than the NTC's minimum of 2 percent.

"The NTC has already informed Globe and Smart (of) the results. Their attention was called with regard to their (service) compliance with the (industry-accepted standard) to dropped call rate," the regulator said in a statement.

In the area of blocked calls, 2.54 percent of all Smart calls failed to connect on the first call, well within the government's 5-percent limit.

Globe was slightly behind with a score of 2.75 percent, but still within required levels.

For signal level, referring to the number of signal bars on a mobile phone during a call, Smart posted an average -83.14 dBm, while Globe's score was at -88.1 dBm. Both were better than the NTC's minimum -85 dBm, but the NTC, in its remarks, said "Smart had an edge over Globe."

Both companies also passed in the area of signal quality, which measures the quality of voice transmissions during calls. Smart registered a score of 0.65 while Globe registered a score of 1.03. Both scores were within the acceptable range of between 0 and 4, with scores closer to 0 being better.

Tests were done during the month of September in random areas nationwide. A total of 2,389 calls were made using prepaid accounts. A similar benchmarking test was done for the second quarter, but that one covered collected over three months, using prepaid accounts.

NTC sources earlier acknowledged that the second and third quarter tests were not comparable given the differences in testing dates. The NTC commissioners also questioned prepaid over prepaid accounts in terms of service quality.

Cabanos said both firms would be given until Monday next week to explain why they should not be penalized for failing in the area of dropped calls.

ADB

Front page 83-1

...FIB also declared that all is geared from legislature was a fair and equitable one.

According to Hiroto Enokimoto of JTB he is hoping the Senate will be able to craft an excise tax bill that will be fair for all stakeholders.

"FIB is not averse to the implementation of tax measures or generate revenues for the government. We simply believe that these tax structures should be moderate and predictable, as well as equitable, to ensure a more stable revenue flow which will attract more investments and fund more government projects," Matsuo said in a statement.

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November 13, 2012 Country	Unit	Peso Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	1.00000	40.9600	41.0000
Japan	Yen	0.01190	0.48730	0.4877
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.12900	5.28360	5.2890
Singapore	Dollar	0.80900	33.13640	33.1700
Canada	Dollar	0.99700	40.83620	40.8770
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.32900	13.47640	13.4900
Australia	Dollar	1.04100	42.63720	42.6800
Taiwan	Dollar	0.03400	1.39264	1.3940
Thailand	Baht	0.03300	1.35168	1.3530
Brunei	Dollar	0.80900	33.13640	33.1700
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.00420	0.17203	0.1722
Switzerland	Franc	1.07200	43.91520	43.9600
UAE	Dirham	0.27200	11.14240	11.1530
EU	Euro	1.31000	53.66000	53.7200
Korea	Won	0.00100	0.04096	0.0410
China	Yuan	0.16100	6.59560	6.6030
Denmark	Krone	0.17400	7.12704	7.1340
India	Rupee	0.01600	0.65536	0.6560
Bahrain	Dinar	2.70000	110.59200	110.7000
Saudi Arabia	Riyal	0.26700	10.93728	10.9500
Qatar	Riyal	0.27400	11.22304	11.2340
Kuwait	Dinar	3.48000	142.56000	142.7000
Oman	Rial	2.65000	108.56000	108.6700
Vietnam	Dong	0.00005	0.00205	0.0021
Russia	Ruble	0.03200	1.31072	1.3120
Sweden	Krona	0.14900	6.10364	6.1090
Switzerland	Franc	1.07200	43.91520	43.9600
Turkey	Lira	0.55100	22.57096	22.5910

Source: Bankers Trade Association of the Philippines, Inc. (BTAP)

Core businesses boost Ayala profits

By Dialen L. Lucas

PUBLICLY listed Ayala Corp. yesterday reported strongest nine-month performance figures, citing the robust contributions of its property, banking and water businesses to the bottomline.

In a statement, the flagship holding firm of the Zobel family said their consolidated net income for the January to September period reached P8.7 billion, or 19 percent higher than that of the same period last year.

That net income—which excludes the impact of the unrealized mark-to-market gains realized by its international property unit last year—reached P8.3 billion, representing a 33-percent year-on-year increase.

Ayala Corp. chair and CEO Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala said he was pleased with the earnings performance of the firm's core businesses and the continued improvement in profitability of our investment arm.

The conglomerate's earnings growth was driven by equity earnings from its core and non-core businesses, which reached P11.1 billion in the first nine months, a 21-percent increase year-on-year.

Significant improvement in equity earnings of its international businesses also helped boost the conglomerate in the first nine months.

The company noted that its equity earnings contribution over the past quarters has pushed its share price up 49 percent year-to-date, outpacing the market's 20-percent rise.

"Shares of its listed business units have likewise increased substantially over the period as they consistently delivered a solid earnings growth year-to-date," it said in a statement.

The nine-month net income of Ayala Land—the country's largest real estate developer—reached P6.6 billion, representing a 27 percent increase over last year, driven by strong revenues across all business lines.

Total revenue grew by 26 percent to P38 billion with its property development business up 27 percent year on year.

ONE MERALCO FOUNDATION BACKS FOOTBALL FOR PEACE

One Meralco Foundation, together with the MVP Sports Foundation, provided 500 soccer balls to the Philippine Marine Corps for its Football for Peace, a sports program aimed at teaching values of discipline, teamwork and sportsmanship to conflict-afflicted Sulu youth through the game of football. "We've always believed that sports is an effective platform in developing the character of the youth," said Meralco Chief CSR Officer and One Meralco Foundation president Jeffrey O. Tarayao. Photo shows (L-R) Tarayao, Loyola Meralco Sparks Football Club (LMSFC) coach Vince Santos, Philippine Marine Corps' Major Stephen Cabardet and Brigadier General Renergio Valdez, Meralco and One Meralco Foundation chairman Manny V. Pangilinan, LMSFC second striker Mark Hartmann, Meralco president and CEO and One Meralco Foundation vice-chairman Oscar S. Reyes, and Meralco SVP Al Panlilio who is also Customer Retail Services and Corporate Communications head and MVP Sports Foundation president.

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BUSINESS

Standardized banking rules for Asean pushed

By Michelle V. Ramos

THE IMPORT limit in Philippine has called on its counterparts in Southeast Asia to start working on the standardization of banking regulations to the region to move the goal of having a fully integrated Asean banking system by 2020.

BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said that under the plan, a bank in one Asean country would be allowed to operate in another member country under the same terms and conditions that applied to local banks.

Tetangco said the standardization of banking regulations might sound ambitious, but wanting the necessary work really would help the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations realize the goal on time.

"Asian Banking Integration Framework (ABIF) is a major initiative in itself but with the aggressive timeline, it is an ambitious undertaking ... But the world should not underestimate the resolve of the Asean leaders to pursue and achieve this desired architecture," Tetangco said in a speech delivered for him by BSP Deputy Governor Nestor Espenilla Jr. during the membership meeting of the Asian Bankers Association.

He said harmonized regulations were necessary for the successful integration of the banking systems in the region. This is because with common regulatory systems, banks would feel more comfortable operating in foreign jurisdictions.

"Parity across jurisdictions is proposed under the ABIF so that banking becomes 'one and policy neutral' between one Asean jurisdiction and another," Tetangco said.

This year's gathering of members of the ABA, which run from Nov. 12 to 13 in Makati City, tackled the issues and trends concerning Asian banks, such as strategies needed to remain resilient amid the ongoing crisis in the euro zone and the role of banks in the integration of Asian economies, which will start in 2015.

Rajendra Theagarajah, outgoing chair of ABA, said in a press conference that the roadmap for the integration of Asean banks by 2020 had already been completed.

Alsons 9-mo net down 40%

ALSONS Consolidated Resources Inc., the holding company of the Alsonsons Group, yesterday said its net income attributable to parent fell by 40 percent in the first nine months to P239.6 million from P402 million a year ago.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, Alsons said its consolidated net income in the first nine months this year was 16 percent lower than year ago level. This was due to the nonrecurring income posted in 2011, which came mainly from the collection of insurance claims by a subsidiary.

Consolidated core net income was up by 17 percent to P747 million. Total revenue grew by 9 percent to P5.27 billion in the first nine months of 2012, from P4.69 billion a year ago.

"The biggest contribution to the holding company's revenue came from power generation subsidiaries based in Mabel, Saranggani and Cotabatoga City, which earned P1.097 billion in the first three quarters of 20 12 from P1.522 billion in the same period in 2011," the company said.

Alsons' utility subsidiary at the Lima Technology Center in Malvar, Batangas posted a 19-percent increase in power and water sales to P900 million in the first three quarters from P565 million a year ago. Jerry E. Bueno

MOTORING

Editor Joey N. Arnaiz

Oil companies assure motorists in PH fuel trucks safe

By Tessa H. Salazar

IF A motorist or a driver, you must have imagined, at least once, that the fuel tanker roaring beside you carrying thousands of liters of flammable fuel would just burst into flames and explode. Well, in Riyadh on Nov. 1, a fuel tanker crashed onto a highway post, burst into flames and exploded, leveling all the buildings beside it and killing 26, the Ministry of Health was quoted by The Hindu online news as saying. Hundreds of others were injured. Arab economy tycoon Bakr Bin Laden reported that the panel formed by the government to investigate the accident in eastern Riyadh would process its findings to Interior Minister Prince Muhammad bin Nail on Nov 12.

Thus, as of press time for business Monday, the official report has not been made public.

Regardless of the outcome of the government investigation, the horrific accident has sent chills down the spine of the riding and driving public. Here in the Philippines, especially, where a spate of truck and bus-related accidents have peppered the highways with dozens of innocent casualties and millions in property damages, the prospect of a wayward truck loaded with tens of thousands of flammable fuel colliding with an immovable barrier (or God forbid, another fuel truck) and then exploding to the middle of a busy intersection may just appear too grim, yet not too far-fetched, either.

Inquirer Motoring asked the country's biggest oil dealers into this question head-on. In the light of the Riyadh accident, are your fuel tankers safe?

Total Philippines, Chevron Philippines, Petron Philippines, and Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. replied. Regardless of what happened in Riyadh, yes our trucks are safe.

However, Renato Bañalbal, customer service and road transport manager of Total (Philippines) Corp. said, "Unfortunately, we cannot respond (fully) to the question because we don't have all the facts [of the Riyadh accident]."

Abigail L. Ho, government affairs and institutional linkages manager of Unocal Philippines' marketing department, said her company cannot give a more comprehensive answer since the official report has not been released by the Riyadh government.

"We don't really know the actual conditions behind the Riyadh tanker incident. There are many factors involved that could have led to the explosion," she explained.

Bañalbal noted: "The possibility of fuel leaking from a tanker after collision depends on the location and intensity of the impact and the general condition of the fuel tank and its piping. Generally, fire occurs not instantaneously with the collision but only after the leaking fuel reached a source of ignition like an electrical spark or open flame. This is why the immediate response in case of such accident is to isolate off the accident zones and eliminate all possible sources of ignition."

4.5 mm thick, 5-year check

Bañalbal revealed that the minimum allowable thickness for a fuel (truck/tanker shell is 4.5 mm. And this shell is checked every five years, in accordance with government regulations.

A TRUCK'S doom-ruter on the revealed load of fuel tanker that was hit by a passenger bus in the Science City of Muñoz in Nueva Ecija recently.

"Our contracted trucks comply with both international and local construction standards and are equipped with safety devices such as isolation switches, emergency valves and back-right reflectors.

"Other safety mechanisms in place include a tank-to-load-checklist conducted everytime a truck enters our depots where we check tire thickness, seat belts, engine, discharge valves, safety equipment and electrical wires. Further, we ensure our drivers' safety with the rollingtarmfed on top of the lory to help them during product loading and unloading. We also employ a third-party specialist to check on the trucks every six months," said Bañalbal.

Bañalbal disclosed that Total (Philippines) does not own or operate any fuel truck. "We have third-party contractors for

PIL CONTINUED ON B14

Empowering engines for economic growth

Foton's Big Show just got bigger

Text and photos by Edwin Uy

FOTON Philippines, the country's most active and biggest Chinese made vehicle brand holds an annual single brand auto event called the "Foton Big Show." Its theme this year is called "Empower Your Business" and for the first time, it was held in the Philippine Cuisine last Oct. 19-21 in Pasay City.

One of the highlights of the event was its "Power Deals" promo, allowing Foton buyers to trade in their old vehicles for a brand new Foton unit. Aside from getting a better valuation for the trade-in unit, it was bundled with special rewards and surprise promos. The event was also participated by several major auto loan banks that offered flexible financial packages with easy terms of on site credit applications that can all be processed in one day. The opening ceremony was hosted by MMDA Chairman Francis Tolentino and the guest of honor was Mr. Li Jianxin Roque, with several national government and foreign dignitaries including Ambassador Rosemary Virginia Tarver and honorable Mr. Cheng Ping of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in the Philippines attending the event.

Here in the Philippines, Foton is exclusively distributed by United Asia Automotive Group Inc. (UAAGI) since 2008. It has since grown to 39 dealerships nationwide as just a span of five years.

Ronfred Sytin, president of both Foton Philippines and UAAGI, said: "Our mission for year 2013 is to provide business solutions to and for our clients. This is why we came up with 'Empower Your Business' as this event's theme. This is not merely for us, but for all our stakeholders. Said some of these would have been possible without the support of our financial and banking partners, as well as government agencies, like the DTI. Our 59 dealership network and our 90 accredited Service Centers have engaged fully on a nationwide level and we are able to provide the unlimited support and service requirements of our customers. Dealerships in emerging growth centers are also in the pipeline for 2013. The corporation brought about by the partnership between Foton and Daimler, the leading truck manufacturer in the world, is a major break through not only for Foton as a brand, but more importantly it has been very instrumental in the advancement of technology for our heavy-duty trucks."

Foton is the world's second and Asia's largest large-scale vehicle, machinery and equipment manufacturing enterprise. With a focus on commercial and passenger vehicles, the company also produces construction machineries and agricultural equipment and has gained a strong position in the global market. Its recent acquisition of the Kassbohrer business of Daimler, Europe's leading technology in electric competitive position and in partnership with established American and European automakers provides up-to-date specs and model development. Its production-scale models are focused on elevating manufacturer standards and targets making cost-defect products.

The Foton manufacturing base has expanded its global network through its 12 manufacturing hubs and seven RD (Research & Development) centers located in China, Russia, Iran, Pakistan, Vietnam, Indonesia, and Mexico. The company also invests heavily in developing new products and innovation systems with the help of its R&D centers located in Germany, Japan, United States, Thailand and Taiwan. In 2009, it entered into a joint venture with Daimler Kingstar Co. Ltd. to produce engines for the new Thunder pickup. It also partnered with German automaker Daimler AG, the world's leading manufacturer of heavy-duty trucks, recently. Formerly known as Daimler-Chrysler, its new limited-edition Unicla will be produced right in the Foton Daimler plant in China.

The event showcased Foton's vision of empowering businesses and enterprises by providing the market with affordable, reliable and well-equipped vehicles for passenger and commercial uses, pickup trucks and construction equipments. The show also shared Foton's global green vision of providing alternative fuel vehicles by unveiling its version of the E-Zero and E-Truck. Foton is China's largest provider for alternative fuel buses, with thousands of its electric buses plying the streets of China's capital city Beijing. "We wish to show you Foton's global dimension in the areas of protection and adherence to green technology applications...the first Foton Electric Jeep! Because we, at Foton fully support the Alternative Fuel Law & the Clean Air Act," Sytin added.

Introduced to the local market in 2006, the Foton Tunland pickup trucks have been well accepted in the local market, including government agencies. The Foton Big Show also displayed several variants and special editions of its new Thunder pickup, powered by American engine brand Cummins. The Foton View Van and MPV Transbus are also configured in left-hand drive and even in right-hand drive for export markets. Foton also has a wide range of medium and heavy-duty trucks and chosen to avail of our drivers not only with its pickups and vans, but also to operate and focus on heavy machinery.

Foton also ran a contest among its dealers, showcasing three winners from its Dumpaguan, San Pablo and Balintawak branches. The Dumpaguan dealership won the top award with a fully customized Thunder pickup truck, complete with an armored bumper, large 4x4 Concept Duo wheels and Mitsu mud tires while runners-up San Pablo branch came out with a "Push Me Pull Me" prototype van using Duo Tires. The model and third placer Balintawak branch took the entrepreneur route by coming up with a rolling store concept using a Tornado commercial truck. Other activities included seminars and technical trainings about its products, road safety and responsible driving, vehicle registration, licensing, traffic regulations and other economic or fleet and equipment management.

For more information about Foton, contact (02) 459-2121/0922.807.7227 or log on to www.foton.com.ph, or email inq@foton.com.ph and like FOTON Philippines on facebook for more updates.

LOOKING GOOD The newly launched Foton Thunder is taking the pickup market by storm.

BOTH Foton View Van and MPV Van models can be configured in left-hand service ambulances.

FOTON'S top three finalists in the custom Foton awards where the Thunder pickup emerged as grand winner

Another busy week for the motoring press

THERE'S much to celebrate about these past few days. MV-Autohaus is proudly concluded their highly successful motor show and People's Choice Award at the SM Mall of Asia Grounds. Various car manufacturers came out to hall support of the said event and the public.

In had access to unlimited test drives of almost all brands. Led by industry pillar and veteran broadcast journalist and columnist Butch Gamboa, the event was indeed a resounding success.

Besides industry pillar, or more precise, by two of them, were also present. Felix Mabilog, who was supposedly retired and living peacefully but was in fact quietly working behind the scenes to bring in Peugeot back to the country under a new company which forms part of the Columbian Group (Aurora Car makers Corp. or ACC, distributor of BMW and Columbian Motors Corp. or CMC, distributors of Kia) rolled Francisco Ilustrisimo Inc. (wherein Mabilog is the president), was there. Also present were Peugeot Asean countries general director Lionel Fougeres and regional sales director Vincent Gonzyn. ICH chair Antony Fernandez (of the Fernandez clan which owns Victory Liner and Fiesta Inn), who gave a solid speech of welcome and thanks; delegates from the French Embassy, the Department of Trade and Industry, bank and financing agency officials. ICH Sale executive Jose Ch. Alvarez was unfortunately not present during the event—he was working hard abroad to attract more foreign direct investments to our country.

FELIX Mabilog

A few weeks back, select members of the media had the opportunity to test drive their four model offerings, the RCZ sports car, the 2008 crossover 4007 SUV and 308 executive sedan, which made everyone impressed. The Peugeot brand is special to me. Its 207 hatchback was the first car that I ever tested for Top Gear Philippines back in 2004. Its petrol engine (a 1.6-liter 4-pot which would sometimes hit three-fourths temp when flogged hard, but in fairness never overheated) was overshadowed by its brilliant chassis. No wonder Peugeots dominated the WRC where the underdogs were struggling. The 307's chassis and suspension dialed in perfectly and soaked up everything I threw at it: overloaded bimbo, swallowtown, slick and muddy roads of Tanay to Real, the most evil potholes of Ichu Back then, Ichu was a PDE stretch of road, which has remarkably improved today despite its still-awful conditions). I loved it, but was leery of the engine and electronics. Plus it was quite expensive back then.

Now, ICH's focus on the new Peugeot lineup are the diesels. Their brands HDI technology means super clean and efficient CRDi turbocharged diesel engines that deliver astounding power, efficiency, economy and fun. Power emissions, especially when compared to the current crop of Japanese and Korean CRDi diesel technology. Unfortunately, no hatchback was in sight. I asked ICH marketing chief Dong Magsaysay, a former motoring editor who had switched sides to the manufacturer's echo, to verify: there was no such hatch. He simply smiled... which hopefully means that hatchbacks are in the pipeline, because the 3- and 5-door hatchbacks are the soul of Peugeots worldwide. I'd love to get my hands on a modern 308 GTI hatchback, take it back to Tanay and flog it for all it's worth. Just for fun, for d***'s and giggles. Because the Peugeot is that kind of car: passionate, fun and romantic.

Finally, we come to Top Gear magazine's eighth anniversary. I remember back in 2004, Top Gear was the new kid on the block. Standalone cars almost did not exist in local motorsports, motorcar exhibitions despite being under the National Group of John Gokongwei, one of the country's leading industrialists. Much has changed since then, especially under Vernon Harter's stewardship of the brand. Top Gear has become, without question, the country's foremost authority on all things automotive, driving and industry-related arena. The most luxurious, the most exclusive and first drives devoid of hanky pankies which allows Top Gear to be fully honest, truthful, transparent, and very much relevant to the times and trends. Of the original lineup, only a handful remain as aside from myself there was Dhon Tolentino, lawyer Bobby Cornejo, Andrea Barjon and JR Tolentino, who writes sparingly but always seems to get the supercar assignments!

Of course, Top Gear would not be where it is now were it not for the manufacturers who always lends us their cars, fancy corporate cars, the advertisers who stood by us, the aftermarket parts and accessories suppliers who would always throw us their fancy gear which we could never afford, various government agencies and LGUs who would gladly accommodate Top Gear's often weird requests, and most of all, our dear readers. Here's to another eight years of fun-filled, exciting and ground-breaking stories of Top Gear Philippines!

LIONEL Fougeres (right), general director for Peugeot Asean countries, and Johnny Hernandez, ICH chair at the public launch

Oil companies assure motorists in PH fuel trucks safe

Turn to page B5-1

gas fuel, LPG and lubricants delivery requirements. At present, we have a total of 565 trucks."

Total Philippines currently has 180 service stations in the country, with Luzon having the most (137), Cebu with 9, and 34 franchise stations in Bohol and Surigao.

On the other hand, the unit Shell currently has a total of 125 tanker trucks, some of which are owned by the company and others owned by accredited hauliers.

It's explained that the accreditation of these haulers is not perpetual, but renewed every six months, in June and December. Third-party haulers are evaluated based on weekly updates from the company's transport offices, monthly delivery log from the transport assistant, and the biannual tank truck log contained in the company's inventory management system, as the areas of quality, delivery and service.

"The safety of the tank trucks is a large part of the evaluation process," Bordonaro said.

Tracked by GPS

Antonio F. Sobrado Jr., Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp's media relations manager, said the company's tank truck and driver safety processes is covered in the Health, Safety Security and Environment (HSSE) protocols. "We follow a strict set of policies and standards that ensures HSSE is managed across the organization." He added that were no compliance to policies are made on a regular basis.

Sobrado stressed his company's optimum vehicle safety and maintenance. "Our trucks are maintained regularly according to truck requirements. Our policy requires us to purchase trucks with safety features such as anti-lock brakes and collision protection."

To ensure that drivers constantly drive at a safe speed, Pilipinas Shell trucks are equipped with global positioning system (GPS) devices.

"With this we can monitor their speed and location. The unit will send off an alarm if speed limits are breached," Sobrado said.

Provisions on road safety

Chevron Philippines Inc., marketer of Caltex brand of fuels and lubricant products, said in a statement that "it recently reinforced its internal safety protocols that put a premium on road safety by having stringent guidelines and safeguards in place for its trucks and fleet cars."

Chevron does not own any tank trucks, but relies on its accredited contractors to provide trucks that meet its "rigid safety and technical requirements", said Sing E. Ignacio, assistant manager for petroleum relations and communications.

"Chevron's heavy vehicles are installed with speed Univers which keeps it from running faster than 90 kph. And the drivers cannot tamper (sic) the mechanism, as the limiter is programmed via an onboard computer.

"Not before we allow drivers to handle the tank trucks, they are required to first undergo extensive defensive driving and safety training," said Jim Schrun, Chevron area transportation manager.

Schrun added: "We also see to it that all vehicles have at least 30 percent height axle and full width rear reflective marking for night-time visibility to other vehicles (rears reflective compound)," thus allowing it to be seen better even when visibility is low, especially with its LED tail and brake lights and speed-resistant whitewalling scheme."

All trucks and mixers have an on-board computer system (OBCS) that monitors fuel consumption (km/liter), average speed, estimated time of arrival, driver/rest (time), vehicle diagnostics/data, display gauges, vehicle messages/warnings, and other vital vehicle settings.

For destination safety monitoring, Chevron trucks are also installed with GPS, which indicates the whereabouts or location of trucks so that it can be monitored via the Internet and through mobile phones.

Other safety features in the trucks include a tachograph to show driving time and speed in a graphical format, MIS, object proximity sensor at passenger side, airbag and bell reminder, battery isolator switch to interrupt all truck and trailer electrical circuits while the truck is loading, and a windshield made of "safety glass" which is laminated and non-splintering, among others.

"All of these safety features are also backed up by measures that would ensure the comfort and well-being of our drivers on the road, such as air-conditioned cabs, driver seat is air-operated, with lumbar support and adjustable to accommodate different size drivers. All seats have three point lap/shoulder inertia reel seat belts, to boot," Schrun added.

The trailers are equipped with dual collapsible handrails (air operated) for fall prevention and bolted channel side guard protection on both sides of the vehicle.

Screening standards for drivers

Sobrado said Total Philippines' drivers, at the minimum, must have two years experience as a lorry/tanker driver with a professional driver's license (restriction 1.2.3.6.....large trucks) and meet the company's medical (including drugs and psychological tests) and NBI clearance requirements.

"Aside from these, they are required to undergo our Asia Pacific Transport Improvement Program where they receive training on our road transport standards and procedures. They are also required to attend a training session on our product loading and unloading procedures along with periodic fire fighting and oil spill drills. We also conduct breath analyzer tests to check for alcohol consumption daily. Further, we conduct annual driving seminars and quarterly safety meetings with our drivers," Sobrado said.

He said that for drivers of Seacol trucks, routine human resource screening processes are conducted. Once they pass that, they must go through a week-long training, mostly on loading and unloading, prior to actual delivery. Drivers who fail the evaluation after the training are let go.

"In general, Seacol practices stringent safety measures in all aspects of its operations. Its health, environment, and safety department has policies governing various parts of company operations, including transport. For its tank trucks, in particular, the company follows Technical Fire Prevention And Protection Standards. Seacol is cognizant of the fact that it is handling sensitive commodity so safety is always a priority," he said.

Sobrado cited Pilipinas Shell Petroleum's insistence of Driver Safety and Behaviors.

"We ensure that the drivers that are hired are qualified to drive our trucks. They are not just licensed professional drivers authorized to drive but they have to pass a series of training modules in order to drive our tank trucks."

He added that drivers are trained regularly with proper driving and defensive techniques. There are also various refresher courses that have to be taken in order to continue driving their vehicles. Failure to comply places the driver in default, which prohibits him to handle a vehicle until he passes the required competencies.

"We have a system of rewards and incentives for our drivers for good practice manner," Sobrado said.

Journey planning, management

Sobrado stressed journey planning and management has been part of Pilipinas Shell Petroleum's safety policies.

"We only allow our drivers to drive for a maximum 10 hours per day. They are likewise only allowed to work 12 hours per day. This is to ensure that they are not fatigued when they are driving."

He added that authorized routes are predetermined. Drivers should take only these routes when delivering to customers.

"Transporting petroleum products is a very serious part of our business, given the extremely volatile nature of the products we carry. Thus, there is a system of safety measures and procedures we follow to ensure these products from our terminals and depots to our retail service stations," Sobrado said.

MOTORING

Editor Joey N. Arnaiz

The new SUV: 'Sexy Utility Vehicles'

By Jeanette Iquin-Tiamson

THESE OF Angelica Jolie finally decided to become a mother and [illegible] for a Victoria Secret fashion show and you get validations to the resuscitation of the image of motherhood. Although our responsibilities are the same—grocery shopping, going to vanity washing, ballet practice, bringing the dog to the vet, having [illegible] repaired—looking drab is no longer mandated. Now shopping in heaven 23 or Sujabop are not just for teenagers, our in-tandem splurge just for the mistress. Loving yourself go to no longer the badge of good motherhood. Now if we are able to sport the thorn Lugay

Drive like a girl...fabulously
she driven

bandage dress without batting an eyelash, shouldn't we drive something that does not scream mom but instead, a very secure mom?

I was window-shopping at the ruthless Shinrobins, another of the annual motorshows organized by STS for the possible options for, well, the so-called "hot mamas." It featured the biggest car manufacturers in the country such as Hyundai, Toyota, Ford, BMW. Autobuzz is actually a good show to go to if a car is part of your Christmas list. I brought along another "hot mama," Philippines

If NOT for the emblem, I would have thought I was driving a European car.

Philippines marketing manager Rod Robis, armed with a manual projector for SUV at similar (something towering other cars, hence, ...), a hypothetical budget of P1,613.8 million and, of course, our responsibilities in mind. We shortlisted three options from the show:

Kia Sportage 2.4 AWD

We test drove the Kia Sportage 2.0L AWD AT Gas model. The first thing I usually check in a car is how much space I can put my stuff in that would be very convenient. They had a neighbor holder in between the driver's and passenger's side lighted vanity mirrors. It was a good size for a vanity mirror—it's not the usual wallet size where you have to put make up on your face to mention. It also has a manual, which was great you good natural lighting when you apply your make up.

This Kia model was top-of-the-line and AA really premium for a price tag of P1.4 million. It had a big sunroof, which can fit in a lot of items. It has a proximity key and a start-stop button, radio and stereo control buttons on the steering wheel. It has a convenient USB interface for your Ipod or smart phones, although we weren't able to try if it charges the device as well. If not for a big Kia Freddie on the steering wheel, I would have thought I was driving a European car.

When we drove this car, it was very responsive, had a small turning radius (this is important to me, making u-turn smoother) but doing a U-turn from the Ten Stores-Ortigas/Ayala Center exit into the entry of the Skyway and having to back up) I feared the gas pedal and felt no acceleration jerk but due to the limited road length and speed limits, I wasn't able to check when the power comes in. Kia offers five years or

TWO MORE... B4

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Manny Angeles, Marvin Caparros earn trip to 2012 Audi quattro Cup World Finals

THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED 2012 quattro Cup Philippines proved as resilient as the technology for which it was named. Even during the no-struggle of Typhoon "Ofel," over 220 participants took to the links of Malaruyan Golf and Country Club to battle it out for this year's champ of the 4th edition of the amateur tourney. Golfers played through heavy rains and strong wind and competed for the honor of representing the Philippines in the Audi quattro Cup World Finals to be held in Western Cape, South Africa.

THE AUDI A1 1152 was the hole-in-one prize of the tournament.

The event culminated in a playoff held last Oct. 20 with golfers vying for the final spot. This year's competition also took on a different dynamic. Aside from the tournament champions, participants were also divided into host divisions, and a winner was chosen among each group. The new Audi A1 1.4 TFSI was also up as stake as hole-in-one prize.

In the end, Manny Angeles and his teammate golfers, Marvin Caparros emerged as the 2012 quattro Cup Philippines champions and represents Team of the Philippines to the World Final. Angeles and Caparros will be leaving for South Africa this November. The following also emerged as division champions: Dennis Hsiung and Elmer Lopena for Division 4; Ray Pacillo and Ricardo Tuberillo for Division 3; Rodolfo del Corro and Marvin Albert Pitacio for Division 2; and Ivonne Saira and Raphael Tuason for Division 1.

Aside from the tournament champions headed by PGA Cars chairs Robert Coprico Jr. and Audi Philippines head Benedicto T. Cojuico, the tournament has proven that, once again, bad weather is no match for Audi quattro. The tenacity of organizers and participants also made this year's tournament a great success.

PARTICIPANTS of the 2012 Audi quattro Cup Philippines at Mt. Malarayat Golf and Country Club

The Audi Quattro Cup Golf Tournament series was established in 1991 in Germany Last year, Audi dealers from 51 countries worldwide organized a total of 765 tournaments and over 90,200 amateur golfers participated. Over one million golfers took part in one of the Audi Quattro Cup tournaments during the last 21 years.

The 2012 Audi quattro Cup Philippines was made possible through the following partners: Prudential Guarantee and Assurance Inc., the largest non-life insurance company in the country and proud insurer of the Audi A1 1.4; Golfers Interactional Trading Corp. and their range of drives: Callaway, Taylor Made Dynamic Sports Philippines; Bridgestone, Cuneo; Pacific Paint (Boysen) Philippines; Jade Rimfree Freight International Inc.; Splash Corp., Mighty Guard Krops, Thermos, and Oil Water Holdings. Injurer Golf and Rogue Magazine served as the official media partners of the 2012 Audi quattro Cup Philippines.

WINNER the skies cleared, it was time to aim at the pins.

SAD weather and all, golfers still enjoy their round at Mt. Malarayat.

PGA CARS chair Robert Coprico Jr. (center) with quattro Cup Philippines champions Manny Angeles (second from left) and Marvin Caparros. Also in photo are Audi Philippines head Benedicto T. Cojuico and tournament director Mike Cuni

2013 Santa Fe: matching style with driveability

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

THE HYUNDAI Motor Group has stolen the thunder from other global carmakers where outstanding style is concerned, as proven by the awards and accolades won over the years by the Hyundai Genesis, Sonata, Elantra and now the 2013 Santa Fe.

Longer, wider and lower than its predecessor, the new Santa Fe is built on the same platform as the Kia Sorento. The design of the third generation Santa Fe, Hyundai's flagship sport utility vehicle, is called "Storm Edge" marking the next evolution of Hyundai's Fluidic Sculpture theme. Storm Edge is sharper and more confident than Fluidic Sculpture, yet its inherent elegance makes the new Santa Fe one of the best looking SUVs in the world.

This is not to say that the Santa Fe is impressive only because of its futuristic elegance. Powertrain libraries has succeeded in matching style with good performance and driveability. Powered by an early spec 2.2-litre turbo-cam, common rail direct injection R-2000 diesel engine with eVGT (electronic fuel-able Geometry Turbocharger) mated to a 6-speed Hi-matic transmission, max output is 197 at 3,800 hp/3800 rpm and torque peaks at 436 Nm/1800-2500 rpm.

Handling. At a turbo engine, the Santa Fe accelerates smoothly and for a midsize SUV, it handles well. The handling is neutral and balanced, the ride is comfortable and firm, not bouncy on uneven surfaces, there is a good, solid feel like a European vehicle with an interior rattling and no NVH (noise, vibration, harshness). Although the Santa Fe is not the flattest cornering crossover in its class, body lean around corners is never irritating. The 16-valve CRDi eVGT powerplant delivers steady response and sudden high revs, those with no perception of lag or surge, thanks also to Hill Start Assist Control.

The Santa Fe is not a serious offroader, but the Traction Control System and Electronic Stability Program work well should you lose grip on a slippery road. Thanks to Continental Brake Control, descending several feet-and-foot is smoothened and produces no brake fade. The large brakes (ventilated discs in front, solid discs at the rear) stop the Santa Fe from 80 km/h in 44.9 metres (a distance to six cars). A MacPherson strut front suspension with an H-shaped subframe reduces NVH and improves front end stiffness while a multi-link arrangement keeps ride-smooth.

The 2013 Santa Fe's interior looks richer and more upmarket than the preceding models with upscale instrumentation under a curved binnacle, soft-touch surfaces and satin-chrome details. The premium GLS R-eVGT AWD models (P1,228 million) 7 seat-three has leather seats, a panoramic glass roof, 19-inch alloy wheels and HID headlamps as standard equipment.

Spacious. The Santa Fe's cabin is perhaps the most spacious in its class with three rows of seats: front bolster seats with electric 2-way lumbar support for driver, a second row that folds 60/20/40 and slides or reclines to increase legroom and a third row designed to accommodate children only that splits/folds 50/50. The large, rectangular trunk offers enough room for four golf bags and luggage (its 81 527 liter capacity with all seats in place that expands to 1072 liters when the second and third rows are folded. A cargo bin under the floor is handy for storing small or items. Ample door and front overhead pockets, cup holders, 12-volt power outlets, a deep center console and glove box complete the interior picture.

The Flex Steer button on the steering wheel allows you to calibrate the electric power steering to Comfort, Normal or Sport in accordance with road, traffic and weather conditions as well as your mood, although Comfort is best in that the steering is inconsistently weighted. Other welcome conveniences are the Push Start System, an active ECO that lights up when you drive efficiently, electric folding outside mirrors that fold automatically when you turn off the ignition, a cool box, cruise and remote audio controls on the steering wheel, a 7-inch TFT LCD color screen with reverse camera, auto-climate air conditioning display and trip computer info features, distance to empty screen, fuel consumption, instant fuel consumption, average speed, outside temperature), radio/CD with MP3, Bluetooth, XDR, Aux input, four speakers and rear-seat, co-load air con system with duotone interior.

Safety. In other markets, the Santa Fe is sold with seven SRS airbags but here, to keep its price competitive (P1,168 million for the 2.4-liter 2WD petrol and P1,568 million for the 2.2-liter 2WD diesel), the number of airbags has been cut to two, front ones. All variants are equipped with ABS with EBD, Electronic Stability Program, Smart key (proximity key) locking system, reversing lamp, rear assist parking system, pre-tensioners, height-adjusted, load-limited 3-point ELR seatbelts, engine immobilizer and high mount stop lamp.

Bottom line. The third generation Santa Fe is an impressive improvement over the outgoing model in terms of futuristic, elegant Storm Edge styling as and

THE THIRD-GENERATION Santa Fe has sharper-edged yet still futuristic styling.

STORM Edge is the new evolution of Hyundai's Fluidic Sculpture design theme.

AT THE back, LED rear combination lamps and a rear spoiler.

INSIDE, an upmarket look and feel with 7-inch LCD color screen, satin-chrome details and soft touch materials.

CARGO room increases from 527 liters with all seats up to 1,021 liters with seats folded, enough for 4 golf bags and family luggage.

THE 2.2 LITER DOHC common rail direct injection diesel engine with electronic Variable Geometry Turbo produces 194.36 hp and 436 Nm max torque.

THE SPACIOUS second row seat slides forward or back to increase legroom and its seatback reclines up to 16 different positions.

Cars may soon 'talk' to each other

TOKYO, Japan—Toyota Motor Corp. is testing car safety systems that allow vehicles to communicate with each other and with the roads they are on, in a just-completed facility in Japan, the size of three baseball stadiums.

The cars or the Intelligent Transport System use sensor information from sensors and transmitters installed on the streets to minimize the risk of accidents in situations such as running a red traffic light, cars advancing from blind spots and pedestrians crossing the street. The system also cuts out the transmit such information to each other.

In a test drive for reporters Monday, the presence of a pedestrian triggered a beeping sound in the car and a picture of a person popped up across screens in front of the driver. A picture of an arrow popped up to indicate an approaching car in an intersection. An electronic female voice said, "It's a red light." If the driver was about to ignore a red light...

The 2.5-hectare test site looks much like the artificial roads at driving schools, except bigger, and it is a course of the Japanese automaker's technology center near Motosu City in Shizuoka Prefecture, central Japan.

Toyota officials said the smart car technology it is developing will be tested on some Japanese roads starting in 2013. Similar tests are planned for the United States, although details were not decided. Such technology is expected to be effective because half of car accidents happen at intersections, according to Toyota.

Managing officer Morikiko Yoshida said Toyota sees preventing collisions, watching out for pedestrians and helping the driving of the elderly as key to ensuring safety in the cars of the future. AP

The new SUV: 'Sexy Utility Vehicles'

From page B4-1

100-km warranty for the Sportage.

Peugeot 3008 1.6 Allure

Although technically a crossover, the size of the Peugeot 3008 was a good size for self-driving. Being a European car, we were expecting Peugeot on its relaunch under Euro-brand Cornerstone Inc. to be priced higher, but this car was priced just under P1.7 million with all sorts of goodies. Once again it has sizeable middle console, big enough to discourage owner's access from the passenger and the driver (unless the other is a contortionist). It has the cooler console, which I believe is good place to leave the rest of your makeup kit without the fear of melting or spoiling it in parking.

The Peugeot comes with a lot of goodies including a touch-up display and a very quirkily 3-tiered (think) steer. Not only does it gives you flexibility in what you need to bring home but also gives you a hidden storage for laptops and other shopping items you don't want to show your hubby (when about a surprise birthday gift/...wink wink). There are code markings that show the weight limit of each level. Another fixture is the panoramic roof, good when you need to cool down after a hectic day and watch the sky. One thing to consider is the aftermarket support as during their brand launch, Eurobrands Distributor Inc. president Arlie Hidalog announced the opening of service centers/depots by the end of the year and 12 by 2014. During Peugeot first foray in the country several years back, they left a lot of orphans with their shops pulled. Now under the helm of the Colombian Group (which are the same people behind Rin and DBPV in the country) things are looking rev-rific for the French brand.

Kia Sportage and its sunny mirror.

THE BACK seats of the Tucson seats very comfortable.

Hyundai Tucson R-eVGT 4AT 4WD

The Tucson on display was a limited edition which costs around P1.7 million. It was very similar to the Kia Sportage in terms of interiors, maybe because they are both Korean manufactured vehicles. The low rises of the exterior body of the Hyundai are very far opposite, actually most of the new Hyundai cars have taken such exciting turns in terms of designs. Its biggest sales, the Hyundai Tucson is also a possible option for me upsell for a smaller body. I particularly like the fact that the back seats of the Tucson were very comfortable and felt good enough to sleep without a pillow (and the risk of a stiff neck). Although I would probably explore more choices in the crossovers in terms of prices and materials. The Hyundai has much going for it in terms of image and track record.

There are still other possible options as it would be good to shop around. Make a mental list of non-negotiables for you in terms of features and size. Does this car make you feel like driving to work? Or does it make you feel like driving to such a place? Low-end, mid-range or high-end, what is important is how the vehicle makes you feel driving it.

For comments and suggestions, please email me at jm@chinkeejones.com, like our page on Facebook/chinkeejones or follow me on twitter @chinkeejones.

Motor Image PH celebrates Kansha Festival for Subaru

By Alvin Uy

MOTOR IMAGE Philippines (MIP), the exclusive distributor of Subaru vehicles in the country, along with its authorized dealers, will hold its annual Kansha Festival from Nov. 14 to 18 (8 all in showrooms, also known as Subaru customer appreciation week, the Kansha festival is originally a celebration adapted from the Japanese "Kinro Kansha no Hi" or Labor Thanksgiving Day, in observance of this holiday in Japan, Mr. Inc. brings with its rating the same theme by giving away exclusive offers on selected Subaru vehicles, accessories, parts, after-sales service and even Subaru Lifestyle merchandise items which will only be offered only during the campaign week.

The Kinro-Kansha no Hi is a national holiday in Japan, officially taking place annually every Nov. 23) with various events held throughout Japan. This ancient form of Labor Thanksgiving Day started a more modern way of celebrating this holiday after the war, in 1948, as a day to mark some of the changes of the postwar constitution of Japan, including fundamental human rights and the expansion of workers rights.

Subaru owners are also avail of a service clinic, which will have a free 26-point safety checkup along with other special and exclusive offers for selected parts and accessories in all Subaru dealers and branches. Subaru customers can also avail of its special event kit and wax detailing services during the promo period. To ensure that all customers will be serviced without hassle, all Motor Image dealers and showrooms will be offering extended service hours...from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.....during the duration of the festival.

Special discounts await those who wish to purchase a new Subaru during the festival promo period. Buyers will be treated with extra freebies and special packages during the 5 day Kansha Festival. Subaru showrooms will be decorated with exclusive banners and the sales personnel will be served with free food and beverages. To keep the kids entertained, Motor Image has set up arcade racing games for the whole family to enjoy during their visit. Daily raffle prizes will be given throughout the week to lucky customers and guests.

For more information, visit any of Subaru's showrooms or email us at enquiryph@motorimage.net

MOTORING

Editor Joey N. Arcano

Practical solutions to our traffic's urban crawl

By Jason R. Ang

HALLOWEEN is already over but last week, and the night of the living dead—motorists who were alive but otherwise stuck in a slow-moving body of traffic—struck once again. While it's true that there was a 10-car accident on C5 Friday (which exacerbated the situation, the specter of wasted time, fuel, and tempers utilized was is one that repeats itself on the roads of Metro Manila every single workday. While the government has announced projects that promise some relief, they will be years away—if they prove to be at all. Building more roads and bridges is necessary, but they will make traffic livable if only motorists will properly use them. Recent projects like the Katipunan-C5 over/underpass have eliminated some traffic lights, but traffic still crawls around the exit points of the interchange. Inquirer Motoring suggests some practical solutions that can be immediately implemented, at negligible cost.

Clean up illegal parking. Vehicles park along major roads like Katipunan Avenue and C5 with impunity. Those along Katipunan are customers of restaurants that dot the area, while many along C5 host the meetings of Barangay Libis. If the local government does not clear out these urbanites, there's little hope for faster flow of traffic in these areas. There should be a zero-tolerance policy and tight fines for parking along major roads. Speaking of parking, establishments along roads like C5 may have parking slots in front of their buildings but most are improperly laid out. Customers have to back out into the road, blocking one or two lanes of traffic. The layout should be changed to enable maneuvering outside of the main road, and easier for merging into traffic.

Discipline buses and jeepneys. Our so-called professional drivers are a major cause of traffic slowdowns. Jeepneys stop for passengers anywhere they wish; some of them are silly exaggerate cue areas that become choke-points—never mind that some of these spots may exactly be across U-turn slots, such as on Marcos Highway in front of Robinsons East. A possible solution would be to put vehicle stops along the highway and enforce their proper use. Again on Marcos Highway, the bridge has been widened to provide a jeepney loading area, but drivers are seldom cured. Just below the bridge, a transport depot has been built but remains empty. Instead, jeepneys congregate in front of the MRT station, and commuters queue on the highway itself, while MMDA officers look on haplessly.

Rationalize the U-turn schemes. Scientific studies have shown that U-turns can be effective, so the scheme initiated by the previous MMDA chair is not without its merit. However, U-turn ramps can be properly designed and the road suitably widened. Also, too many U-turns are packed closely together, dragging up traffic even more. During peak vehicle hours, some U-turns can be closed so as to speed up traffic going in both directions, leaving them below the flyovers. Travel distances will increase on the average, but the all-important travel time will be lessened.

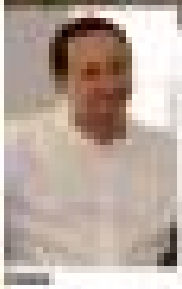
Redistribute the bus schemes. A poll conducted by Inquirer.net had 81 percent of respondents agreeing that buses should be removed from Edsa. While the MRT is operational, there is little reason why 4,000 buses should continue to ply Metro Manila's major artery. Provincial bus terminals should be relocated to the northern and southern ends of the city. Edsa bus routes with proper stops should ply interesting roads to allow some commuters to travel via public transportation. Bid out the leasing of buses to private corporations, but with one or two companies running the entire network—just like rotors within cars.

Implement strict inspection of motor vehicles. Trucks that seem more suited to the junk heap class carrying 25 tons of cargo while barreling down the road are a sure recipe for disaster. Failed brakes and brakes running have claimed many lives and caused countless traffic snarls, but still the losses have never been learned. Annual safety inspections for trucks should be done systematically by trained inspectors, just like for motorcars.

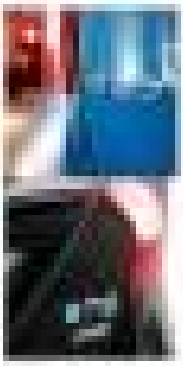
These solutions are not new, and many have been voiced before—which may lead us to conclude that it is easier said than done. However, these schemes have to be enforced day in and day out—and for years to become truly effective. The daily sight of cars that in Metro Manila traffic may just be broken back.

P for Polestar for Performance

With the engine control module software upgrade, a Volvo car will be sub-six-cylinder sedate image



Volvo Service 2.0 offers a different dimension to car and customer care



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Isuzu's Alterra, Crosswind People's Choice winners

By Charles E. Bulan

THE UPDATED Isuzu Alterra SUV as well as Crosswind AUV were voted among this year's winners of the recently concluded Auto Focus People's Choice Awards.

The 2013 Alterra Urban 2.5 with 18 was voted this year's Best Large SUV while the 2013 Crosswind Sportivo X was inducted to the Hall of Fame for collecting more than five awards. The AUV was also cited for having the Best On-board Entertainment System among the competing SUVs in the awards' Mudfest Choice category.

The winners of the annual awards is determined by a nationwide public poll conducted by the motoring public and members of the automotive media.

This year voting included 147 different models.

Unit sales

"Now on its eighth year, the awards for the first time incorporated unit sales as a factor in the vehicles' selection process, carrying 60 percent of the overall result. Meanwhile, the votes garnered during a three-month online poll on Facebook made up 40 percent of the final score," informed Isuzu Philippines Corp. SVP Arthur Ballesteros who received the award held at Valle Verde Country Club in Pasig City.

The latest edition of the Alterra Urban Gasoline X is Isuzu's flagship model and features black leather seats and retro cabin materials, anodized head lamps and taillights, a new rugged front skin spoiler, fender-inspired rear chin spoiler, high-mount LED stop lamps with clear lens, and a navigation-ready Bluetooth multimedia entertainment system equipped with four-zone sound surround speakers and high-definition 'headrest-mounted LCD monitors.

The Bluetooth system features a built-in 7 inch wide touch panel monitor, an 8Vch16-bit monaural integrated Bluetooth connectivity, MPEG audio-killing an SD-card reader as well as 240 Watt front speakers with additional tweeters and the 280-Watt rear speakers.

The SUV is still powered by Isuzu's reliable and State-5 compliant 3.0-liter turbocharged and intercooled diesel engine.

The latest edition of the Crosswind Sportivo X as the other hand, is equipped with 17-inch performance alloy wheels, fog lamps, chrome plated power side-view mirrors with integrated LED turn signal lamps, a state-of-the-art entertainment system, roof rails, a rear spoiler, a shark fin antenna and a sporty space tire cover.

The AUV is still powered by Isuzu 2 compliant 2.5 liter turbocharged diesel engine.

Conquering Mayon

Balmadrid was elated to report that the freshly unveiled Alterra Urban Gasoline X was recently featured in a drive event around Mt. Mayon in Albay.

"The fact that our vintage red Albay landmarks like the Padang Grass, St. John The Baptist Church in Tabaco, Donsoy House in Tiwi, Tiwi Bodgay Road, Museo Itaw House and, of course, the famed Cagsawa Ruins proved the merits of the SUV in dealing with long drives and various road conditions," Balmadrid said.

Balmadrid added that with the updated Alterra Urban Cruiser X's new range of equipment, the SUV becomes an excellent choice for young professionals and executives who are seeking for a spacious, luxurious and superior ride.

Sophisticated

"Because of its sophisticated looks and features, the 2013 Alterra Urban Cruiser X will surely appeal to young executives who lead dynamic and active lifestyles," said IPC president Ryoji Yamauchi. "The fact that this premium SUV is highly capable of taking on the urban jungle as much as it could the scenic countryside makes it quite ideal for people who are always on the go."

The Mr. Mayon trip is part of IPC's On Journeys That Matter campaign to partnership with Cubix Diesel with Turbine 3 and sports and lifestyle brand Skechers.

Yamauchi informed that the 2013 Alterra Urban Cruiser X is available in four-wheel drive variant that features four-speed automatic transmission as well.

BALMADRID shows off the Best Large SUV award for the Alterra from 2011-2013 Auto Focus People's Choice Awards

as rear-wheel drive variants also remain to offer a four-speed automatic transmission or five-speed manual transmission.

Available in Starry Black, Mineral Grey or Silky Pearl White colors (with optional pearl finish), the manual 4x2 variants are priced P1,228 million (monotone) and P1.546 million (pearl option). The automatic 4x2 variants on the other hand, are priced P1.385 million (monotone) and P1.595 million (pearl option). The automatic 4x4 variants are priced P1.718 million (monotone) and P1.716 million (pearl option).

The 2013 Alterra Urban Cruiser X is available at Isuzu dealership nationwide. (for more information, log on to www.isuzuphil.com)

Go for brand new, Isuzu urges

By Charles E. Bulan

ALTHOUGH used trucks could be had at a much lower price, its main drawback is the fact that it has questionable quality.

"Whether the dealer has worked the vehicle to make it attractive for a test drive, the would-be buyer is still recommend about to repair history to reliability, emissions and fuel economy. When the buyer disregard these issues, they will end up with much bigger problems," warned Isuzu Philippines Corp. SVP Arthur Balmadrid.

Balmadrid urged buyers to look beyond the price.

"Imported used trucks do not come with any service history, and so their condition is sometimes only through visual inspection and speculation. To make things much worse, most of these vehicles are not accompanied by any warranty, putting the buyer at risk," said Balmadrid.

Statistics show that trucks involved in major accidents are mostly reconditioned/ dilapidated used trucks.

Balmadrid reported that when it comes to brand-new truck, the market still trusts an Isuzu. "Somehow, IPC trucks have established a reputation for being reliable, durable and fuel-efficient. Proof of this is that they are among the most popular brand-new trucks in the local market, with the highly regarded Isuzu N-Series leading its category for the past 13 years."

IPC president Ryoji Yamauchi added that Filipinos

have loved and have put their trust on Isuzu trucks for decades, as the trusted Japanese brand has been present in the Philippines since the 1940s.

"The Isuzu brand has become synonymous to truck and diesel power. Wherever there are long drives and hard-to-reach places, there will surely be an Isuzu reliably rolling by," Yamauchi assured.

"Generally, new trucks have a useful lifetime of more than 10 years while imported second-hand ones may last only for three years. Plus, after a decade of reliable service, our trucks that were brought new can be resold at a much higher price."

Balmadrid added that their truck's maintenance schedules are followed and guaranteed by IPC's highly trained technicians who strictly follow the manufacturer's specifications.

A brand-new 10HE light duty truck priced at P850,000 still has a current resale value of P650,000 after five years. Compared this to imported second-hand trucks that will only have a value of less than P300,000 after just a few years of service.

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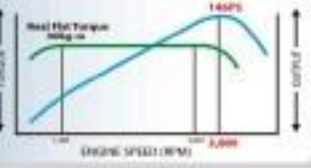

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'Why am I sad at such a joyful time?'

Audrey Xen-Zubiri

MAMA DIARIES

Postpartum depression is a serious issue that must be addressed if both mother and baby are to be helped

DON'T LAUGH, but many years ago when I was still in high school, when I first heard the term "postpartum depression" or PPD, I thought it was a form of depression that some women experienced after giving birth because they sensed being pregnant?

It didn't take long before I learned the actual definition of PPD, but with motherhood nowhere in the horizon yet at that time, it was hard to wrap my head around the idea of being sad at such a joyful time.

As much as I wish I had a couple of anecdotes on PPD, that's an itch in the shoulder go because the fact is, it's a very serious issue...a type of clinical depression which affects some women after childbirth or a miscarriage. According to medical texts, it is "a complex mix of physical, emotional and behavioral changes."

It is hard to say what causes it, but it is usually brought about by hormonal changes that occur within the body. During pregnancy, the body produces 10 times more estrogen and progesterone, the female reproductive hormones, but within a week after giving birth, the hormone levels return to normal.

This drastic change in hormone levels is what is believed to be responsible for the emotional period that follows childbirth.

PPD is oftentimes confused with the baby blues, but they are not the same thing. Women suffering from the blues may sometimes feel that they have PPD, as they share some common symptoms such as difficulty in sleeping, feeling unusually overwhelmed and frustrated. Crying over nothing is also fairly common, but with PPD, these feelings go away on their own within a few weeks, and are accompanied by genuine happiness over your baby.

In the case of women who suffer PPD, the feelings are not fleeting and go much deeper than the usual emotions that most women feel after giving birth. For instance, rather than just regular frustration from fatigue, a woman with PPD may experience more intense feelings such as hopelessness, failure, anxiety and emptiness.

Medical treatment

PPD also takes away the ability of the woman to find any joy in her everyday life with her new baby. PPD often lasts months and may sometimes require medical treatment.

There is also the more severe form of PPD called postpartum psychosis, in which a woman may feel completely unattached to her baby or even imagine things that are not there, which can be very dangerous for both mother and child. She may lose touch with reality too.

While harmful thoughts may enter the mind of a woman suffering from PPD, they are quickly disregarded and forgotten. On a mother suffering from psychosis may actually act upon these thoughts and suffer true remorse upon realizing what she has done.

There are some women for whom PPD simply goes away, while in other cases, medication is necessary. The severity of symptoms and the treatment needed vary from person to person. Many factors come into play such as family history or depression and personal circumstances. Each case is different, as we will see in the stories of many mothers who shared their experiences.

In the case of our friend, Carmela* was very excited when she finally got pregnant, as she had to go for fertility treatments and inject herself with hormones regularly. "But after I gave birth to my daughter, the same doctors] has to me and I did not even want to touch her."

She had to stay in the hospital nursery, but this did not bother Carmela because she did not want to be with her, and when it was time to go home, "I did not want to carry her or take care of her." It took a few months, but eventually, with the right support and understanding, Carmela was able to find herself and enjoy her daughter.

"Please don't feel guilty because it is normal and has nothing to do with you," she says. "Take you up hormonal changes as hormones. Eventually it will get better. Have my daughter and I are best friends."

The story of Jane* shows a more difficult journey through PPD. "I had a healthy baby and I knew I was happy. Or at least my mind knew I was supposed to be happy but I couldn't feel it. I couldn't feel any bring in all. It was as if I was completely empty inside. I couldn't feel happiness or anger or sadness. I couldn't see my point to life. But nobody knew."

Jane like my own mother, Jane internalized sadness and family who'd come to visit her. Where the nose came she went back to work and showed photos of her baby to her colleagues. Jane knew something was wrong but continued to put up a show that not even her husband saw through.

It was only when she was alone that she allowed herself to drink about whether what she was going through was normal. She knew something was wrong, but try as she might, she could not shake off the dark cloud and bring herself to reach out.

But after several months, she says, "the 'nonfeeling' began to shift into an 'overfeeling' but it was all the wrong things! I was always angry about every little thing and that was something I couldn't hide from my husband."

Not a bad mother

Jane's husband decided to talk to her mom first and together, they confronted her about what she was going through. "They didn't judge me or accuse me of being a bad mother. They just sat there and listened to everything. I said even if many of it probably didn't make sense to them. I cried and cried but it was the very time I felt something remotely good."

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CAROL and Felicidad Sy with Ricky Reyes

New place to heal

Child Haus opens a new home with help from a slew of donors, including the women of the Sy family

By Margo C. Enriquez
Correspondent

FLESH WAS no trace of sorrow, only innocence and enjoyment when the cancer-stricken children sang for visitors at the opening of the new Child Haus at 98 Maginhawa Street, Barangay Teachers, Quezon City.

An initiative of entrepreneur and philanthropist Ricky Reyes, Child Haus is a temporary abode for underprivileged patients with severe ailments who come from the provinces and are undergoing treatment in Metro Manila. Operated like a hospice care and a healing place, Child Haus provides free board and lodging for the children and their parents. The children study in the daytime at their stay.

Wanda Tan, president of SM Prime Holdings and son of Gaisan Henry Sy, donated the house and lot. Sy acquired an old house at a good price, and had it lifted and painted in white like a hospital. Following the advice of psychologists, Reyes painted the walls in bright colors to cheer up the children.

On the day of the blessing, Sy visited the place before he flew to China for business. He was impressed that the place was comfortably furnished with enough beds for 30 residents and a lot of toys. He thought the place was too small, so another Child Haus in Manila should be in the pipeline.

He then sent his wife Carol to represent him and invited his mother Felicidad to join in the formal opening. It was a special occasion to meet the extremely private Sy woman, who rarely makes public appearances.

His or her own little charity

Although SM foundations helps to communities where it serves, Carol said each family member has his or her own little charity. Felicidad, for instance, helps religious groups and has continued to be the benefactress of churches. Being in the company of nuns and priests has kept her young.

Asked her age, she declared, "I'm 46."

Carol, an entrepreneur, prefers to assist the smaller or lesser-known groups. "We help very quietly. We don't talk about it. That's the way to do it. You don't announce that you're doing good. It's only between God and you."

Reyes asked his network to support his endeavor. Broadcasters Korina Sanchez donated dining tables and a big refrigerator; Bobbiwen Sanchez and Atang Sarmiento provided colorful seats and little accessories for children.

On seeing the chapel furnished by Tan-elpson Inc. of Cris Aquino, Felicidad sat down and prayed. During the party, Pastor arrived with a check for P200,000. Reyes didn't refuse it but claimed he's already getting checks every now and then, and it would amount to six figures by year-end.

Reyes explained that donors are given a folder which includes records of where each of their contributed pesos was spent, whether it was on a diagnosis, lab examinations, medicines or procedures and transportation allowance to the hospital. "The donors should know where their money is going."

Then there are the volunteers who serve with a pure heart, be sure. Ateneans University and the University of the Visayas sends caregivers as their on-the-job training. There are Carmelite sisters who share God's love and Christian groups that sometimes provide the lunch.

"The children, play, sing, dance and watch TV. They are happy here, such that they don't feel they are sick," says Reyes.

WELL-BEHAVED residents enjoy the program.

CHILDREN entertain the guests.

CARTOON characters and colors adorn the walls.

REYES invites people in for a cup of hope. In both photos as the Edsa Shangri-La hotel. There are stars in the Christmas tree that are sold and the proceeds are given to Child Haus.

'Why am I sad at such a joyful time?'

From page B1

because for the first time, I was able to let it out on someone.

"Usually, when I should allow myself to let it out, I was alone in the bathroom or if I let it out on someone, it was irrational as when I would be angry.

"I agreed to see a doctor with my mom and finally, I understood what was going on. It was such a relief to be able to know that things didn't have to be this way and that they could, and would, get better."

Joan followed her doctor's treatment plan which included some medication and follow-up visits. She spent more time with her support group as well, which consisted of her husband, mom and best friends, and one day, she says, "I woke up and saw my baby's face the way I should have from the very start and I cried because for the first time, I saw how beautiful and special she was."

In another case, that of Ruth*, she says that "I don't know if what I had was PPD, but there was a time when I felt like I was going through it." She went to her doctor to ask for some medicines for her depression. Instead of medicines, she received a set of prayer books. At first, to my mind, I scoffed at the idea. I thought she was being too traditional, too conservative. But today, I appreciate what she did. I do not judge doctors who prescribe them or women who need them. I know that there are medicines that address specific concerns and are, in fact, essential.

"But I also believe that prayer is a powerful tool. Praying for some kind of healing and peace in Joan has been therapeutic. Faith, a supportive husband, the company of friends and a loving family helped me get through it."

For many women, PPD is often misunderstood. Some may feel it a stance to deny one has it than to admit it, while for some families, it is often ignored and mistaken as simply being "overreacting" or a phase. But it is important to address it to help not just the mother, but the child as well, who needs his/her mother's love and attention in order to grow into a healthy and loving adult who will be capable of creating and maintaining emotional relationships.

*Names have been changed to protect their privacy

THE UNOFFICIAL LIST OF WORTHY SOUVENIRS FROM ABROAD

Being in another country is like skinny dipping in a cold, unfamiliar lake at night—it is thrilling, rejuvenating, and terrifying all at the same time. It is exactly going out of your comfort zone in the hope of realizing a different side to yourself or taking along new stories to share back at home. You pick up mementos to take home from your every destination, something to hold on to and remind you of your time spent in that place. Indeed it might cost you a few dollars to purchase strollers or to try new delicacies in your attempt to preserve the joy of your trip, but for the frequent travelers, one can never put a price tag on the experience. The best way to enjoy your travel? Invest in authentic experiences.

Shop.

For the homemaker, this is your chance to snag a unique piece of furniture or decor for your home. Aside from the likely malls that the particular item which caught your eye is cute or even one-of-a-kind, this is also probably the only souvenir that will surely last for a long time.

For the techie, buying up is key. Usually, the latest models are already in the market abroad before they are even available for pre-order in the Philippines. Purchase the specific model that you want. This way, it'll be less likely that you'll want to buy a replacement for it later. Don't give in to the "That's all I need" reasoning because chances are, if you want something top-of-the-line now, you'll still be wanting it later.

But no trip abroad is complete without the mountains of shopping bags filled with the latest trends in fashion. Look closely inside the store as these items will most likely be unavailable back home—or elsewhere, for that matter. If you're an expert shopper abroad, you know that traveling light is key. Bring with you an almost empty luggage, but bring home one that's bursting in the seams!

Dine.

Food writers always say that the best reflection of a place's history is its food. This is why frequent flyers should never miss an opportunity to try authentic international cuisine—may it be at the classy gourmet restaurant across your hotel or from the popular food cart selling the city's best street food as recommended by locals and fellow travelers alike. Indulging in treats for your tummy and your taste buds is an easy way to be acquainted with another country.

Live.

Maximize the experience of living away from home. When in a different country, stay in a place that closely mirrors the country's culture. Find accommodations that offer a taste of the place's history or the local lifestyle. Bed-and-breakfast inns could be a great choice. Don't stop at finding a great place to stay, explore the location of your hotel or inn. The closer you are to quaint little street shops or locally owned restaurants, the more authentic your experience of that country's way of life will be.

Explore.

Curiosity is the soul of travel. Aside from researching on your destination before your trip—what the locals are like, the food the place is known for, or the best places to visit, try walking around with just your map and your camera (don't forget your wallet, of course!). Explore your surroundings and inquire. More often than not, the highlights of a vacation are the unplanned moments sneaked into your itinerary.

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Disney's 'Camp Rock: The Musical' opens Nov. 16 at OnStage, Greenbelt 1

BUENO ENTERTAINMENT PHILIPPINES' "Disney's Camp Rock: The Musical," which opens Nov. 16 at OnStage, Greenbelt 1, Makati City, is based on the hit Disney Channel original movies "Camp Rock" and "Camp Rock 2: The Final Jam" which offer songs, dances and light-hearted entertainment toward teen-to-tween audiences.

TV stars Maykiki Stevens and Christian Bridges lead the cast, which also includes Montserrat Amore, Ika Del Rosario, Mica Faustino, Rommggel Delgado, Klara Barrie, Justin Rafols, Mykel Ramos-Gomez, Cara Barretto, Mica Faustino, Rommggel Delgado, Klara Barrie, Justin Rafols, Kara Briggs, Kenyi Factora and Em Manuel.

The ensemble (Camp Rockers/Star Campers) includes Jim Dennen, Jacinto Zabala, Alex Falcon, Chloe Magg, Shalee Romero, Toby Thompson, Ani Feria, Sam Aquino, Steve Hutchings, Kelly Nicolas, Fran Jose, Tonky Lane, Daniel Delgado, Erika Pangan, Aly Wijangco and Arianne Benton.

"Disney's Camp Rock: The Musical" runs Nov. 16-Dec. 16. Alternative openers are at OnStage, 379 Greenbelt 1, Paseo de Roxas cor. Legaspi St., Makati City. Superseded by Valid and Cleared and the City of Makati.

Call 477-8888 or 477-0987, e-mail info@operony.ph or visit www.operony.ph. Ticket prices at ₱1,000 or www.ticketworld.com.ph.

'Sayaw ng mga SenioRita'

Gantimpala Theater's "Sayaw ng mga SenioRita" will be staged on Nov. 16, 3 and 8 p.m., at the Cultural Center of the Philippines, Pasay City.

"Sayaw ng mga SenioRita," written by Jose Javier Reyes, under the direction of Joe Pablo, is about five gay friends who gather to together during a surprise birthday party.

Director Soxie Topacio plays birthday celebrant Pierling de Guzman, an unique collector and stylist, and Lemanger plays Terry Mangohat, well-heeled yet stingy. Arnell Ignacio is Ronnie Gajendang, Iskan open mega-concurrent steak-starlet manager; Manny Castañeda is Dr. Sonny Almario, aesthetic and cosmetic surgeon to the stars; RR Gamboa plays Raquel Villavicencio, homecoming queen and socialite.

Other performances are on Nov. 23, 7 p.m., Nov. 24, 3 and 7 p.m., Dec. 1, 3 and 7 p.m. at the AFP Theater, Camp Aguinaldo, QC.

Call (02) 426-1704 or (02) 531-4601, loc. 1409, 09985222, 0939-9081020 for the AFP shows.

'Umaarow, Umaalon, Kinakasal ang Tikbalang'

UP Playwrights' Theater reimages "Umaarow, Umaalon, Kinakasal ang Tikbalang" starting Nov. 21 at the Wilfredo Ma. Guerrero Theater, University of the Philippines, Diliman.

This Dulaang UP interpretation from last season was adapted by Rody Vera from Gilda Cordero-Fernando's children's short story "The Magic Circle," and directed by Jose Estrella.

Award-winning artists have collaborated on this project to make the play a visual feast. Look by Mae's sculptural costume pieces, Dino Gabaldon's unique shadow puppetry, Lee Meranda' sets and lights, TJ Fabricar's sound design and Stephen Villas' choreography.

The play runs Nov. 21-Dec. 9 at the Wilfredo Ma. Guerrero Theater, University of the Philippines, Diliman. Call 8pm Dunn or Comelly Guevara at the UP Office (02) 981-8500 loc. 2408 or 433-7836.

'Hanok' exhibit

The Korean Cultural Center will be opening an exhibit on hanok, the Korean traditional house, on Nov. 16. It will also be an extended view of the Korean Cultural Center in Korea.

"Contemporary Hanok" will feature several modern-day hanok forms which tackle the revitalized interest of the Korean people with this traditional housing amid the continued modernization of Korea's residential spaces.

The building exhibits are architects

Jungyong Cho, Dongin Kwang, Yong-ho Kim, Jonghoon Kim and photographer Junhwan Yoon.

The exhibit runs until Feb. 15.

Call 833-1711, e-mail info@koreanculture.ph, visit www.koreanculture.ph.

Noel Cabangon concert

Noel Cabangon's concert "Isang Ang Buhay (The Repeat) Bayong Pabili" will be on Dec. 13-14, 8 p.m., at Peta Theater Center, New Manila, QC. The repertoire will include some re-songs from his "Buhay" albums.

Call 8913866, 0908-890-8977, 0908-8888, e-mail peta@pldt.com.ph

'Mega Fashion Crew 2, Extreme Edition'

Dino Mega Group brings back "Mega Fashion Crew," the TV show-turned-print Mega fashion magazine. The search for the best photographer, fashion stylist, makeup artist, hair stylist and model continues as "Mega Fashion Crew 2, Extreme Edition" airs every Monday, 7 p.m., with replays every Sunday, 10 a.m., only on RPC.

Visit www.megacrew.ph, follow on Twitter @mega_magazine.

Martin Honasan shows freer style in new exhibit

MARTIN HONASAN'S new art exhibit, "Thou Art Shall Free," will open on Nov. 17 at Finded Art Gallery in Sorsogon, Northern Global City, Taguig. It will run until Nov. 30.

"The exhibit is an evolution of Martin's work," says gallery owner Mark Thorpes. "His previous art has been very phenomenistic. With his new show, however, he takes things in a whole new level by exploring new style and deeper themes."

Honasan's older works are photographic and planned—representing a very left-brained approach to art. Around late 2011, Honasan decided to let go of this process and start working with a looser style, reminiscent of the abstract expressionists of the 50s.

"I wanted to examine the physical language of the paint, all that raw, gestural energy—to figurative words, mean by here," says Honasan.

The show's theme is truth, or the idea that truth is knowable, albeit in a limited fashion. The title is taken from a biblical passage, I Corinthians 13:12: For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully even as I am fully known. Romanis stresses that we can see truth—but not day when we have our Creator, we shall fully, finally and truly comprehend.

"We're all truth seekers in the pursuit of understanding," explains Thorpes, who appreciates the honesty and urgency of the exhibit. "I like that Martin is on a journey; he's passionate in humble about it and he wants to share that journey with us."

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LIFESTYLE Home&Entertaining

The little shop where artisanship lives

Like the traditional craftsmen whose works she carries, Mentxaka owner Doody de Tuason has survived beautifully, despite 'Ondoy' and a change of location

By Margo C. Enriquez
Contributor

Still surprised the challenges of moving a business and the onslaught of "Ondoy," Nora, style iconoclast and entrepreneur Lourdes "Doody" Monchaca de Tuason is starting her European home accessories business again in high style.

When Mentxaka (named after the Basque spelling of her nickname) reopened in its new venue at DPC Place in Makati, people were already buying Italian vases and boards even as the shelves are stocked the newcomers.

Hand-carved sconces with gold angels in ivory and gold leaf, hand-blown reproduction glassware, Venetian silverware, Italian ceramic tea sets and a wing chair upholstered with windowpane checks and bedding prints pop out against a background of black graphitone walls and tiles.

"I want to show something that others don't have. This is my niche," she declares. The style maverick is in posh-chick mode—streaks of blue in the hair, a blue blouse encrusted with stars, keys and animals; skinny stylish pants; and gold stilettos by shoemaker du Jour Giuseppe Zanotti.

"It was time for a change," she says. Her face is framed by chain earrings and her fingers are covered with rings of her designs.

Tuason gleefully looks at the crystal antenna by JVE on DPC Place is a no-smoking zone. "It's hard to find nice ashtrays. Since there's none available here, I look for them and get a few for those who suffer the nicotine dilemma."

Not looking back

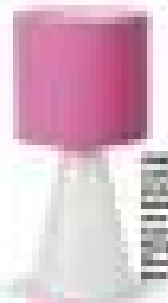
Thirteen years in the business, she recalls meeting a Cebuano who collected antique wooden furniture. Hearing it set up a shop

THE LITTLE SI

SOUP tureen with gold monkeys, black mares urn and metal stand with red scrub by Ceramiche dal Pra. **Rosé** dessert silver bowl

The little shop where artisanship lives

Fun ways to decorate in pink



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NEW Compact Energy Star and Mandolin Side-by-Side refrigerators

New line of energy-efficient refs, washers

WHIRLPOOL has introduced a new line of energy-efficient products.

One of them is the New Compact Energy Star Refrigerator, no-frost, top-mount refrigerators built specifically to conserve energy with an improved structural body which uses a thicker insulation and promises better air flow.

Combined with a high-efficiency compressor, the Neo Compact Energy Star Refrigerator ensures better cooling and up to 33 percent energy savings.

And because research shows that Filipinos love big freezers, the New Compact Energy Star Refrigerator boasts of having the biggest freezer to its class by providing over 20-percent additional space compared to other brands in the market.

Whirlpool is also introducing the Mandolin Side by Side w/ Fingerprint, which help save energy by up to 38 percent, thanks to a high-efficiency compressor, an Star Energy Saver feature, and Magic LED lights.

Mandolin Side by Side refrigerators come equipped with the Star-Ink Ionizer. They have triple-layer sensors that automatically detect usage patterns and adjust the temperature inside the unit, thereby ensuring ideal cooling on food ways fresh longer with minimal power consumption.

Whirlpool Heavy Duty Washers are famously hardworking. The Inverter VRW Washer Series is a new washer line that provides more power and energy efficiency with its exclusive EcoDrive Technology.

Unlike the conventional Belt Drive Technology, the new line produces less friction noise and vibration while providing optimum energy consumption and reliability.

Water is also conserved with the help of its patented 102Low-Wash System that determines exactly how much water is needed to wash clothes.

The 2012 Energy Star Awards recognized Whirlpool Corporation again for its energy and water-efficient home appliance brands. The award was the company's 11th top Energy Star award and seventh consecutive Sustained Excellence recognition. Whirlpool has been honored with 24 Energy Star awards overall, more than any other appliance manufacturer.

The Energy Star Award is a joint program of the US Environmental Protection Agency and US Department of Energy.

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BOOK captures evolution of Zobel's work—his subject matter, moods and color palette.

Zobel de Ayala's new book of photographs launched today

BOOK also shows photographer's black-and-white experiments.

FANS of photography have a new treat to look forward to with the newest book from one of the country's most prolific photographers.

"XYZ: The Creativity of Jaime Zobel" gathers highlights and rediscovered gems from the photographer's career that spans over 30 years. More than a mere retrospective, the large-format volume attempts to capture the evolution of Zobel's work—from subject matter and technique to nuanced moods and color palettes.

The photographer himself announces his evolution with spare but meaningful passages that reveal a mind full of wit and wisdom. Zobel speaks of this anthology as a chronicle of his artistic evolution, as well as a map of his various explorations in the creative process. Zobel said he speaks of his heart through photographs that extend the full depth and breadth of his vision.

That same heart invites the reader to enjoy such carefully selected images with the same joy for creativity and life. "XYZ: The Creativity of Jaime Zobel" will be launched today, Nov. 14.

Jaime Zobel de Ayala is chairman emeritus of Ayala Corp., one of the oldest and most respected business houses in Asia. He is the first Filipino amateur photographer to be conferred "Licentiate" by the Royal Photographic Society and has received similar commendations from the French and Spanish governments for his contributions to art and culture.

Call 9083656 or 9083333 for details.

COVER of "XYZ: The Creativity of Jaime Zobel"

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RUSSIAN Standard Vodka's Reuben Tarlov and models

CYRENE Morales, Dennis Cadorna and Denise Smith

IMPERIAL'S Erik Cua and Raj Sadhwani, Manolet Osorio, GP Reyes, Louie Yumul and Imperial's Stephen Ku

SIMON Ortiz, Pen Solloso, Jenna Yrasuegui, Samantha Hartsock

Can Manila partygoers afford US$30,000 vodka cocktail?

MARGAUX Cabarrubias and Vicky Abary

STEPHANIE Zubiri and Antonio Navarro

JR Silvera and DJ Nina Bayudil

TROY Monasterio and Aubrey Miles

MELA de Lima, Sherbrie Bugarin, Charmagne Lorenzo and Kat Angco

LIPS Espiritu, Toni Abaut and Gregga Yara Cruz

OUR TOWN now has another first, the Imperial by Sir, which had an unforgettable extravagant opening bash. It was the latest venture from the people behind Opus, Republiq, Club, Deck, Pitx and Distillery. Present was Russian Standard Vodka founder Boris Titov, who jetted into Manila for this raucous shindig at The Fort strip.

Co-owner Enrique Gonzalez and Bianca Valerio hosted the affair. They got the crowd hooped up with sounds from DJ Nina Bayudil while the smooth Russian Standard Vodka flowed throughout the happening, dubbings.

The lush was the debut of the co-establishment's signature cocktail, the "Imperial Diamond," created by partner mixologists David Demers.

The luxurious drink infuses Russian Standard's premium vodka, lavender, with Sabatini Gold vanilla, blending it with 1998 vintage Krug champagne, wild hibiscus cordial, and Moyet lemon bitters. The US$30,000 cocktail is finished with 23 karat edible gold and a 1.25 karat flawless diamond, served in a luxurious crystal glass. Hey, that's what high style boasting is all about, di baleh, palangga?

The crowd cheered when Gonzalez announced, "Our very first Imperial Diamond will be raffled off to one lucky lady tonight." Resident Taylor, the party's guest of honor, drew the honor from a bubbling container bursting with cards. The lucky one was model Ormina Cadorna, who excitedly dashed to the bar. The cheers and applause grew louder when Gonzalez announced that "everyone else valuable name is in the Robinsons' would be getting pearl necklaces and other generous complimentary of Russian Standard Vodka."

Imperial Ice Bar is usually a new standard for our night owls on the Bar Lane.

More info? Call Imperial at (0917-3028833.

Mexican at Linden

Ortigas Center in Pasig has undoubtedly become a restaurant destination for the gourmet. Linden Suites launched Rhodian Restaurant and Cafe with a touch of industry partners and epicurean faces socializing around.

The happening got on a roll when general manager Lawrence Pitt and director of marketing Kathy Manuel-Sabonga welcomed the guests. "Mexican means vigorous, and the menu we created is a mix of local and international favorites," said chef Rahilou Rabor-Mendoza.

JET LINDEN Suites' Maxine Bonnaventure and Café opening chef Karina Kuhn-Alcantara, GM Lawrence Wee, Kathy Manuel-Sabonga, Vilma Cortes-Lo and Marissa Macale

NICHOLAS and Victoria Macapinlac, Nalen de Terry, Crystal Yapchiongco and Donna Dee Lim

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arnache

Photos by Alexi Van Haeyen
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"[These are] creations inspired by my personal travels and experiences and collaborations with my team of esteemed chefs. It is a mix of what makes the old world classic and the new world refreshing. We are thrilled to offer the Ortigas business community and its residents a different level of dining experience now available in the heart of Ortigas."

Apart the remarks, guests dug into the yummy appetizers and superb signature dishes which they drowned with drinks. Wham.

The Linden Suites is at 37 San Miguel Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City. *Mirchan Restaurant & Café is open to a.m.-11 p.m. Call 6307878, follow on Twitter @MirchanKuriko, visit www.lindensuites.com.*

Ethan Allen and wines

Ethan Allen, the American brand of home furnishings, partnered with Forth and Tay top fine wine and spirits merchant, for an indulgent night of vino-tipped drinks, "A Toast to Timeless Living."

Wine connoisseur Erik Kahn shared with the guests some of Forth and Tay's fantastic flavors such as Domaine de Beurrie Rivaux, 2005; Opus One (US, 2007), and Sta. Rita Cuvee Rosé (Australia, 1995). FWM at Ethan Allen's showroom in The Bonifacio, Greenbelt.

The night was all about how good wine and classic furnishings complement the taste and lifestyle of today's discerning urbanites.

"Ethan is a classic class: a highly regarded as timeless and chic. It's definitely wine," said Melissa Valdes, Ethan Allen brand manager. "The drink has established itself in society and has traversed from one generation to the next, playing a role in history, for never has a glass or bottle of wine been in existence, reminiscent of how Ethan Allen has evoked its way to our homes."

Their evenings celebrated like there was no tomorrow, dubbings. It was truly a night of timeless pairings, with Ethan Allen's eye-catching classic furnishings and Forth and Tay's expertly aged wine collection, packaging.

Ethan Allen is exclusively distributed by Swire Global, Inc., a major lover of premium home furnishings and appliances brands such as Kitchen Aid, Jenn-Air, Neff, Miele and Fella.

It is on Bonifacio Drive, Bonifacio Triangle, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig. Call 6340337; visit www.forthandtay.com, www.ethanallen.com.

Filharmonic concert, Alabang

"In the past years several classical, trained musicians have ventured into popular music and have developed a new genre of music infused with the expressive and virtuosity of classical music training," said Maestro Arjhan, chair of Insular and principal sponsor and benefactor of the Filipino Cultural Foundation, dubbings.

Noted ends as violinists Tamerlan Ibragimov and David Garrett, pianist Hakuna and all-female string quartet Bond have successfully bridged the erstwhile chasm are great of classical and popular music through their unique arrangements and performance practice."

Traditional concert halls in Europe and America, as well as MTV and the Internet, have presented these "classical crossover" concerts and have been embraced by a wide range of listeners from various backgrounds and age groups.

Filipino Cultural Foundation and Insular, with BMF and San Miguel Corp., join this worldwide craze by presenting "Rock Symphonies" featuring violinist Joseph Brian Cimafranca and the Manila Symphony Orchestra under the baton of professor Arturo Molino on Nov. 17, 8 p.m., at the Insular Life Auditorium in Filinvest, Alabang.

Classical master works will be heard side by side crossover renditions popularized by violinist David Garrett.

Check it out, pahanggan, it will surely be a night of musical pleasures.

Call Marie at 0917-8777261, 0919-8439472, 5053833.

CEDRIC Lee and Enrique Gonzalez

MARIBI Sudhirmal, Clarissa Chiongbian and Eve Cruzabuela

VIOLINIST Joseph Brian Cimafranca

MANILA Symphony Orchestra

ALINE Lopez, Arlene Jacobe and Marilee Fernandez

FOCUS Global biz president Stephen Ely, Derek Page of the British Embassy, Melissa Valdes, and Brad Selzer

LOLITA Ily

JOHN T. Robles, Aileen and Pinky Antonio

IRINA Ochoni, Joel Sanchez, Yogi and Mike Reyes

LINDEN Suites' Ervin de Guzman and Teddy Concon, Sofa Portillo, Raul San Jose and Lisa Ildefonso

PIZZA Pascua, Rubino Shaheen and Janice Hussein

GABRIELA Morales, Ferdinand Tuoh, Cinde San Juan and Rudolph Yapchiongco

MARCO Alcantara, Patrick Gutierrez and Mark Guevarra

'Unusual activity' in an account I don't have

AFTER being threatened with deactivation of my nonexistent account with the Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. (RCBC), I received another e-mail informing me of some unusual activity in my account with Banco de Oro (BDO).

Since I do not have an account with BDO... never had... any activity to my name is totally, completely, absolutely unusual.

Of course, the e-mail wants me to visit a link to get things sorted out. As RCBC already warned its clients, messages like this are meant to get the recipient to share confidential information about their real account.

So, before you hastily respond to the e-mail, check with your bank first. You can call us, better yet, visit the branch nearest you. That will take slightly more time to those attempts to steal information from their clients as they can warn them.

The Internet is a very convenient way to scam people because of the anonymity it offers. Before people realize they have been conned, their money and the scam artist are gone.

'Road-testing' a tab

I had the good fortune to "road test" the new Samsung Galaxy Note 10.1. My main interest in the 9 Feb. since I still do miss typing by hand even if I bring a voice recorder. I wanted to know if it could substitute my reliable pen and notebook.

I am happy to report it lived up to my expectations. It was able to use it to take notes easily enough, and it offered enough pages for me to write on and is adjusted to my style of writing. When I reviewed my notes, they looked bigger on the screen, making them easier to read. The page also stayed steady as I read, and it was so much easier to go back and forth between pages.

Of course, my shoulders ached by the end of the day, but as long as I can read it, I have no problem with that.

I cannot say anything about the added features, not having a stylus. It does have a multi-screen feature so I can have something on display on one screen, eliminating the need to keep minimizing and restarting to standard size the pages I need to read.

The main drawback for me of this tab is the price—about P37,000 I think. The salesperson at Abenson said this was because it had a built-in phone. You could insert a SIM (subscriber identification module) card and be able to call, text or surf the Internet, making it not so necessary to find a WiFi hot spot to actually leave us online, or to get a dedicated plan. Like today's smartphones, you can access the web through your network and pay for usage fees or switch to WiFi, if there is one available, so you do not have to pay.

I admit, future if I would need a postpaid plan because the Internet battery I was assured that, while they had all kinds of packages to choose from depending on my requirements, a prepaid plan will work just as well.

Of course, if you want to use the tab as a phone, you will have to get headphones so you do not look strange having a 10.1-inch screen stuck to your ear.

New lifestyle card

The Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI) and Ayala Malls have partnered for the Ameya Visa. The new credit card offers rebates, discounts and freebies, as well as free use of amenities such as lounges, invites to exclusive events, etc., in participating establishments in the different Ayala Malls. To know more about this new product, visit bpi.com.

Send letters to The Consumer, Lifestyle Section, Philippine Daily Inquirer, 12th Floor, Bonn Ave. cor. Mercedes and Regus Sts., 1204 Makati City; fax 8979703/94; or e-mail lbelido@inquirer.com.ph

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WHAT'S UP

Häagen-Dazs Philippines offers refunds for unused gift certificates

CUSTOMERS with unused Häagen-Dazs Philippines gift certificates valid for the expired promotion can resume brand's P68 Mall of Asia and Robinsons Ermita branches have until Nov. 30 to exchange their vouchers for cash.

"The company regrets that it is unable to refund any outstanding certificates beyond this date, because of the closure of Häagen-Dazs operations in the Philippines," says brand manager Jaffry Castro.

Refunds may be claimed at the Häagen-Dazs offices at MO Marketing & Distribution Phils. Inc., 25/F Philamlife Bldg., 8352 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., except during lunch break, or they may call Joseph Taguba at 8868434. Customers are advised to refer to Häagen-Dazs beforehand, if possible, of their scheduled drop-by.

Customers should present actual gift certificates to claim the refunds.

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FURNITURE pieces by Living Space

Pre-holiday sale at LRI

LRI Design Plaza at 210 Nicanor Garcia St., Bel-Air II, Makati City, will have a pre-holiday sale from Nov. 16 to Dec. 1, Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.

Participating stores will offer up to 30 percent discount on selected items. Shoppers can find pieces from Rosa, Botánica, C.A.S.U., Divana, Isa Casa Furniture Collection, Kamuda Teak Furniture, Living Space, Gonzo Furniture & Lighting, Lazaro Rattan Industries, BlueSpruce Furniture, OMO Furniture, Origins Home Furniture, Outdoor Solutions, Simply Asian, Sinolo, Studio 10.10 and Tribos Bar Living.

There will also be gift ideas from Abes-Dolera, Dominello, Eclectic Living, Haus Design, Heimat and Olive.

Art lovers, please, artwork, sculpture, painting, rare collections, antiquities or novelty items from Ashe Interiors, Art Circle, Gallery Anna, Gallery Dig, MCM Art Gallery, One Workshop, Rico Asian Collection, Stable Dream Domain Gallery, SOU Taylor, Tantrix and PMO Collection and Tim Tam Gog (TAIR). Select from a wide collection of frames at OF Marcado's Frames.

For a total kitchen makeover, visit Restrompt and Cuna.

For a new home ambiance this Christmas, consult design studios such as Adelina Design Studio, Creative Post, Design by GEI Interiors, Grupo Santamaria and Ibona Interior Design. Seasons Fabrics offers interior material for curtains and upholstery.

Furniture is at 30 percent discount at Mendy Marasco Studio.

For inquiries, visit www.lridesignplaza.com; tel. 893 1772.

ANDRE sofa by Eclectic Living

CHAIRS from Outdoor Solutions and, at right, "Flora and Fauna"

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Talk about underwhelmed

ON SUNDAY'S "Gandang Gabi Vice," the host-packed show's guests Ben Alonzo and Zanjoe Marudo, like so: "You are both beautiful, taken individually, but when you're together you look even better, don't you think?" Alonzo's reply: "Okay lang."

Bonnie G. Velarde

HEARD

RUFFA with daughters Venice (left) and Lorin

Very young fashionistas

RUFFA Gutierrez's adorable daughters, Lorin and Venice, are taking after her. At such a young age, they are already recognized fashionistas.

The sisters recently launched their Love Collection in collaboration with Bajo-Laurel.

"It's almost sold out," says Ruffa, beaming. "There are 30 unique designs, five designed by Lorin (9 years old) and five by Venice (8)—(the collection consists of) 250 dresses all in all."

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IMUS

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DIPOLOG

BACOLOD

ILOILO

Very young...

From page F1

...they can get away with anything. As long as the hemline is not too short, they are free to wear what they want."

By the way...

What about her love life?

"Naunsiro. Inbibig me to a certain guy are all just rumors," she clarifies. "I'm officially single and happy."

As for her money, she isn't about to worry in ABS-CBN. "Talks about a transfer are premature," she explains. "I'm under contract with TV5 till March 2013."

Rich is looking forward to spending New Year's eve with her daughters in Sydney. "They are excited to visit the Sarunga [na] and see the spectacular fireworks," she says.

The Ish family "three" always celebrate in style and are dressed to chill!

Lara's newborn

Precious Lara and Marco Alcaraz are overjoyed as they welcome the birth of their baby boy Joseph Lamar (short for Lara Gloria) last Nov. 14.

"I was inside the operating room," beams the proud dad. "When I heard him cry, I cried, too. It gave me a new perception of life. It made me realize how good God truly is. Hindi imposible sa mock hombre and former Lara beauty queen-turned-lady."

Will they allow their firstborn to join the PBA (Philippine Basketball Association) or showbiz someday?

"Hopefully he will excel in school as a (multi) player or he can make it to the big league," Marco says. "Whose life is fine, ma. Lara and I will support him in whatever makes him happy. I just hope he will not want to be a beauty queen like his mom (laughs)."

Welcome to the crazy but wonderful world of parenthood, Marco and Lara!

PRECIOUS Lara, Marco and baby Noah Lamar

'Magical' kiss

The scene of Xyan Quintana and Chavit Gil in "Maalaala Mavis Wallenberg Gold" stands out in the movie. They've got a certain kind of chemistry.

"At first I felt intimidated because she's very beautiful and I respect her a lot," Xyan relates. "It's such an honor to work with one of the most genuine actresses of Philippine cinema. She taught me to be more professional and spontaneous."

How did he feel during their kissing scene? "It was magical," he gushes. "Finally we could have kissed more than what was required in the scene (laughs)."

What can the audience learn from the film? "That we all have both strengths and weaknesses," he explains. "We should know when and how to use them properly."

Personal

Mechanical praises to Ish couple Joel and Michel Pagsolo of Nanami Jewelry in Megamall (2F-Bldg B), Kim Cuaycuan and Gloria Tanda for making our Ish like a princess for a day at their ribbon-cutting. Check out their awesome collection at www.nanami.com.ph. 'Til the season to be bejeweled!

MEGAWORLD Lifestyle Malls

ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

NEWPORT CINEMAS

1 Skyfall
9:00am • 11:30am • 2:40pm
3:30pm • 6:20pm • 11:10pm

Wreck It Ralph
9:30am • 11:45am
2:00pm • 4:15pm

2 Skyfall
6:30pm • 8:20pm • 12:35mn

3 Skyfall 2D
9:10am • 12:00pm • 3:00pm
5:50pm • 9:05pm • 11:50pm

4 Suddenly It's Magic
9:00am • 11:25am • 1:50pm
4:25pm • 6:50pm • 9:15pm
11:50pm

Be the first to watch the epic finale of Newport Cinema's anniversaries (1), 12 Midnight.

DOLBY DIGITAL

EASTWOOD CINEMAS

1 Argo
2:30pm • 5:05pm
7:40pm • 10:20pm

2 Skyfall 2D
2:00pm • 5:00pm
8:00pm • 11:00pm

3 Wreck It Ralph
3:25pm • 5:30pm
7:40pm • 10:00pm

4 Skyfall
2:30pm • 9:30pm

5 Wreck It Ralph
2:25pm • 4:40pm
6:55pm • 9:00pm

6 Skyfall 2D
1:00 • 4:00pm
7:05pm • 10:00pm

7 Skyfall
1:30pm • 4:35pm
7:30pm • 10:30pm

Upcoming events at EASTWOOD CITY
Gary Valenciano LIVE!
Nov. 17 • 7PM
Juris LIVE!
Nov. 23 • 9PM

GREENBELT CINEMAS

Suddenly It's Magic
10:30am • 1:00pm • 3:35pm
5:40pm • 7:45pm • 10:05pm

2 Secret Affair 2D
10:30am • 12:40pm
2:55pm • 5:20pm
7:40pm • 10:00pm

3 Wreck It Ralph 2D
10:20am • 12:30pm
2:40pm • 4:50pm
7:10pm • 10:05pm

4 Skyfall
10:30am • 1:20pm
4:15pm • 7:10pm
10:00pm

RENICE PAEZA AT BOOKBUY HILL
Gary Valenciano LIVE
Nov. 16 • 7PM
Jose Mari Chan LIVE!
Nov. 24 • 7PM

LUCKY EXHIBITIONS
The Travel Club & Ray Tico Ruiz Exhibit
Nov. 15-17 • 10AM
All Star Pre-Christmas Concert
Nov. 18 • 4PM
X-Factor Philippines
Nov. 25 • 4PM

MOVIE TIME

GREENBELT 5
1: A SECRET AFFAIR
2: SKYFALL
3: SKYFALL
4: WRECK-IT RALPH (2D)
5: LOOPER
6: A SECRET AFFAIR

GREENBELT 3
1: SKYFALL
2: ARGO
3: SKYFALL
4: WRECK-IT RALPH (2D)
5: SESSION 9, RENEW FOR THE END OF THE WORLD

GLORIETTA 4
1: WRECK-IT RALPH (3D)
2: SKYFALL
3: SKYFALL
4: SESSION 9, RENEW FOR THE END OF THE WORLD
5: SUDDENLY IT'S MAGIC
6: LOOPER
7: A SECRET AFFAIR

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

1: SKYFALL
2: SKYFALL (3D)
3: WRECK-IT RALPH (3D)
4: SUDDENLY IT'S MAGIC
5: A SECRET AFFAIR

MOA CINEMA

1: SKYFALL
2: SUDDENLY IT'S MAGIC
3: WRECK-IT RALPH (3D)
4: A SECRET AFFAIR

MARQUEE

1: A SECRET AFFAIR
2: SKYFALL (3D)
3: WRECK-IT RALPH (3D)
4: SUDDENLY IT'S MAGIC

MARKET! MARKET!

1: SKYFALL (2D)
2: A SECRET AFFAIR
3: SUDDENLY IT'S MAGIC
4: WRECK-IT RALPH (3D)
5: SKYFALL
6: TICKLE THE ADAMS CHRONICLES
7: BRAVE

TRINOMA

1: WRECK-IT RALPH (2D)
2: SUDDENLY IT'S MAGIC
3: SKYFALL (2D)
4: A SECRET AFFAIR
5: SESSION 9, RENEW FOR THE END OF THE WORLD
6: LOOPER

MARIKINA

1: SKYFALL (2D)
2: WRECK-IT RALPH (3D)
3: SUDDENLY IT'S MAGIC
4: A SECRET AFFAIR

GREENHILLS THEATER

1: SUDDENLY IT'S MAGIC
2: A SECRET AFFAIR
3: WRECK-IT RALPH (3D)
4: SKYFALL

CENTRIO

1: WRECK-IT RALPH (3D)
2: SKYFALL (3D)
3: SUDDENLY IT'S MAGIC
4: A SECRET AFFAIR

For ticket reservations or purchases, text SureSeats to 2910 (for Globe and Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com. Movies schedule may change without prior notice.

For clarification, please call 729-7777.

MOVIE SPECIAL

MALL EVENTS

GLORIETTA
Glorietta Christmas Lawn with Photo Exercise
November 16/Activity Center

GREENBELT
AC-4132 Exhibit
November 7-11/Greenbelt 3-Gallery

ALABANG TOWN CENTER
Wish Upon a Star Kids' Activities
November 15-16/Activity Center

ESCALADE HIGH STREET
BGC Street Dubstep
November 24-25/Kalayaan/Escalade High Street

TRINOMA
Concert Night Globe
Nov. 15, 16

MARQUEE
Love Stands at the Park
November 16, 17, 23, 24/Mini Glass Park

ABREEZA
Ayala Malls Christmas Lavish
Featuring Mall's Newest Novelties 10
Space/Activity Center

GREENHILLS
The Wizard of Oz
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PLAN	PAY ONLY
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*For selected areas; one payment of Promo Installation fee plus one (1) transfer document may be required.
**Minimum speed of 1Mbps at 80% reliability

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ENTERTAINMENT

SHALINE Torre in "under construction."

CHEER FACTOR

Filipino director wins in NY fest

FILIPINO filmmaker Will Fredo won best director at the International Film Festival Manhattan for his work in "The Caregiver." Fredo was the only Filipino winner named during the ceremony held on Friday in New York. Fredo said the honor was "unexpected." He described "The Caregiver" as a "personal film." Fredo, Gregory Manning and Ronell Cruz's

Lying hunk busted, top rival lands big contract

By the Entertainment Staff

HANDSOME Hunk presented himself to Big Boss of Rival Company claiming he was willing to leave Old Studio for greener pastures.

Then HH somehow got BB's phone number and proceeded to send messages reiterating his intention to remain.

Turned out, HH was merely using BB as leverage in ongoing negotiations with OS.

Unknown to HH, BB kept all their text exchanges and could've easily passed them on to OS' bosses.

OS bosses finally learned of HH's machinations. HH was caught red-handed.

Adding insult to injury, HC dudes made it known to everyone, including OS top execs, that they were not interested in HH and that they had offered the lucrative deal to Mistress Idol, HH's constant enemy.

The main nemesis of HH's inner realms ERI are red—er, in his case, pink. Oops.

Another liar

Sheralyn Amidon was caught spreading lies. SI spread a rumor that Actress Cat Icegun was banned by Top Studio—which was likewise, since VC remained in TS execs' good graces.

SI tried to attract attention again by claiming that Popular Personality got spooked and backed out of a fight.

Unknown to SI, PP's supporters did a little snooping and found out SI's motives. Turned out, SI is a frustrated celeb. Her SI resorted to rumor-mongering to gain attention.

(TINI) 43

JUDY Ann Santos-Agoncillo: Will she or won't she open a new restaurant?

GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS

A. LIPPA

BY JESS HARROW

PUGAD BABOY

BY PAUL JUNIOR

DICK TRACY

BY JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS

LOVE-O-MOTS

BY ELIZABETH HOROWITZ

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT

BIKO PAKISHME

BY PAWIK ABRERA

SEH

BY DANIEL SHELTON

NUTTS

BY PATRICK MCDONNELL

SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY

DUSTIN

BY STEVE KELLEY AND JEFF PARKER

TULDOK

BY MARA CELI

HOROSCOPES

CONCEPTIS SU BOKU

HOW TO PLAY SUDOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Tips and programs at www.sudoku.com

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

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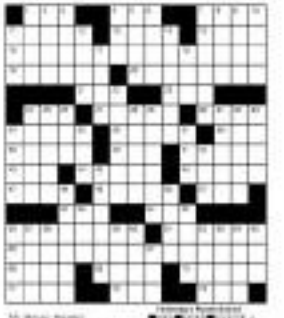
Difficulty Level ★★★

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Opening This Week

Bully
Directed by Lee Hirsch; stars Jo'Meya Jackson, Alex Libby, Kelby Johnson, Tina Long, Laruka Johnson, Kirk Smalley, Bob Johnson

Documentary by Sundance and Emmy winner analyzes the effects of bullying on American students. Denver Post's Lisa Kennedy calls it "smart and compassionate." Mollie Shields's Centre Ogle agrees: "[It] only scratches the surface. Even [it] carries a devastating emotional punch." Film Threat's Rob Kozinski remarks: "Hirsch wants to make you angry, to raise your blood pressure as a first step toward causing your conscientiousness." Exclusively in 100 Cinemas.

The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2
Directed by Bill Condon; stars Robert Pattinson, Kristen Stewart, Taylor Lautner, Dakota Fanning, Maggie Grace, Ashley Greene

Downhill sinkers' vampire finishes scrappy tours, to kill the baby of vampire Edward. One person and human Bella (Stewart). Washington Post describes the franchise's conclusion as a "raging inexpressive turtle," Entertainment.com quips: "Call it symmetric, but perhaps the 10% case is the charm." Rotpdb.com quotes critic Kenny Silva's pans: "Lots of laughs, adorable moments ... straight from the book. A great sendoff for the series." Opens tomorrow.

"THE TWILIGHT Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2"

Lying hunk busted, top rival lands big ... From page G1

Dangerous kiss

Character Arnor got antsy on the set. He was to have a kissing scene with Seasoned Actress—just a smack on the lips. But it seemed like an arduous task for CA. Why? SA is involved with Powerful Personality!

Naturally, CA was scared that JP would get upset. SA made CA feel at ease and the shoot proceeded without a hitch.

Then again, is it true that JP wasn't too pleased with Sito during new role and the onscreen love?

According to a source, CA would be smart to avoid JP's ire! ssssh! Or the big ouly.

All in the family

Being a prima donna runs in the blood. Pretty Model incited up with her entire clan for a photo-op shoot. On the set, her Overbearing Mom made several unreasonable demands.

In the end, PS still seemed unsatisfied and kept complaining about petty matters. Worse, her equally Controlling Father got in the act, too. (2) dares her weight around like a bear.

Members of the crew seemed weary, ever to work with PS, (2)H and (3) again.

Top of the Talk Shows

For those who missed last weekend's TV goddess (And who wasn't moved, if we are moved):

●Regine Velasquez on sex hints: "Siyang-siya ba ako, nakiki-hum ako dito. Tapos kung kumpleto na ako ng mga bitak, nakiking-isaga siya. May appearance ako dun agad or hindi kapa nanonood talaga ako." (We are so not surprised.)

●Ogie Alcasid, asked if he wants a new baby: "Meron kasi ang hanap! Model kasi yung babaeng ito, eh! Sa Santa Ubaldo Hospital yun ang makanap ..." (Oops! sor)

●Sharon Cuneta on detractors urging Sen. Chiz Escudero to unite her in the coming elections: "Di naman ako yung kindaldy, eh." Let's see what happens after May.)

●Sharon, asked if she's ready to settle down, with Senator Chiz: "Oh my gosh, fucking mean! Wait!" (Meanwhile, would you like to see Kiko Pangilinan date?)

●PS, Cuneta on how being a mother has changed her: "I was searching for domesticated ... but when I got pregnant, laging-nag-aalala, forward!" (Those hormones can really do a number on you.)

●Eugene Domingo on rumors that Sam has gone to her head: "Di totoo 'yan. Mas naging sweet pangit ako, eh!" (Amen!)

●Birthday Dee on rumors that he and Bella Montes have broken up: "Siguro mas madaling kausap na lang siguro kasi every time sumusugod ako di naman ako nasisiraan." (No sir no lang 'yan, 'di ba?!)

HEART Evangelista Say "Chz"!

●Robin Padilla on wife Mariel Rodriguez's reactions to his kissing scenes in "Kailangan Ko'y Ikaw" with Aiyee Gemio: "Ang liga lang naman noong ginawang sa Tom Jung (R who dying) noon ako sa may kumbinasyon, ah nakakahiya ako!" (Ha, manner pa! (Wrap up produksiyon ng mga ito.)

●Judy Ann Santos on why she is attached to open a new restaurant: "Baka di kaya ng pasa kong (i-manggage ng kitchenette at bahay di ko maasikaso ... (Sempre, ayaw nga pa pero nanay ako dito, no, eh." (If the food is great, entice be damned.)

●John Lloyd on rumored girlfriend Lovi Poe: "She's an amazing person!" (Ha! Is interior gregorio.)

●Bimbo Magsaysay, asked why she's "disowning" those days "Binabawasi ang space ako si Lord sa labas ng pinagkanan ko! Seriously ... ang dami lang bagong kaibigan siguro." (Good for you!)

●Dimples, asked if she's ready to have again: "Bahala sunod ... Closed po ang pinto ko—cyndee concentration po!" (Good call.)

Sweetwalk, The Buzz, with Allan Pelicano, Cecile Dulce

REGINE Velasquez

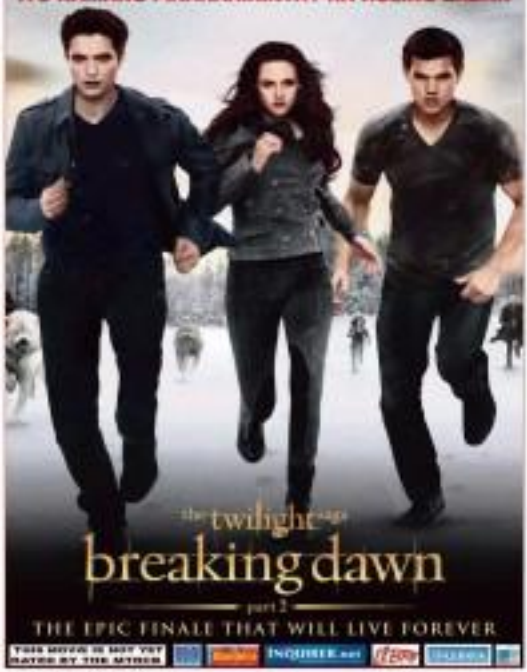
PIA GUANIO

Filipino... From page G2

Kuko Productions also received the Mount Hope Project Award for the film "Gatong ng Pahid" (Patient Iron Dingo-O)

OPENS TOMORROW

ITO NA...ANG PINAKAHIHINTAY NA HULING LABAN



the twilight saga
breaking dawn
part 2

THE EPIC FINALE THAT WILL LIVE FOREVER

THIS MOVIE IS NOT YET RATED BY THE MTRCB

Depriving Anne

NEW YORK—Anne Hathaway credits her new husband, Adam Shulman, for helping her get through the grueling filming of the screen adaptation of "Les Misérables."

In "Les Mis," the 30-year-old actress plays Fantine, a struggling, sickly mother forced into prostitution in 1800s Paris.

Hathaway lost 25 pounds (11 kilograms) and cut her hair for the role. She says in the December issue of Vogue that the part left her in "a state of deprivation, physical and emotional." She felt easily overwhelmed and says Shulman was an

ANNE Hathaway and Hugh Jackman in "Les Misérables"

SUN BROADBAND GIVES YOU A TABLET AND A POCKET WI-FI IN ONE PLAN!

Sun Cellular has been busy revolutionizing the communications industry since day one with its amazing offers, and now comes the latest of its unbelievable, downright out-of-this-world services - the Sun Broadband Gadget Plan.

How would you like two free gadgets on top of your plan? Yes we're serious, because under the Sun Broadband Gadget Plan, you get quality broadband internet, an Alcatel T10 Tablet, AND a Pocket Wi-Fi for as low as P799 per month!

The Alcatel T10 Tablet is Alcatel's inclusion to the mid-range tablet game, which features the Android operating system, an ultra-responsive 7" screen, a 1GHz CPU, and Wi-Fi capabilities. The Pocket Wi-Fi, on the other hand, could be used not only by the Alcatel T10 included on your plan, but by all your wi-fi-ready gadgets as well.

Aside from the aforementioned gadgets, the Sun Broadband Gadget Plan 799 includes 60 hours of mobile internet for one month, while the Plan 999 comes with, yes, unlimited mobile internet for one whole month.

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